Reviewer’s report

Title: Acute Monoarthritis in a Delayed Diagnosis of Syphilis Patient with Persistent Rupioid Psoriasis-like Lesions

Version: 1 Date: 1 September 2012

Reviewer: Crystal Shen

Reviewer’s report:

The authors report a case of syphilis presenting with persistent rupioid psoriasis-like plaques and acute monoarthritis. This is an interesting case report. The authors have described their situation well and mentioned some conclusions, which may benefit readers in the future. The case is reported thoroughly, but there are multiple grammar errors overall. Most of the errors are related to subject-verb agreement and consistency with verb tenses. Some long sentences would benefit from being split into multiple sentences. The paper would benefit from editing by a person whose native language is English.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Page 1 – In the Conclusion section of the abstract, the term “divergent” may not be the most appropriate.
2. Page 3 – Specify how many months history of right knee joint pain
3. Page 4 – Describing the weight loss as “He also had 5 kilograms of unintentional weight loss in one month” would be more conventional.
4. Page 4 – Should be “The patient’s past medical history includes” rather than “include”
5. Page 4 – Sentence about sexual history would be clearer stated as “He admitted engaging in several acts of unprotected heterosexual intercourse, with the last sexual encounter occurring 3 years prior.”
6. Page 5 – “Abdomen rash biopsy” should be “Abdominal rash biopsy” and in that same sentence, “curst” should be changed to “crust” (misspelling).
7. Page 7 – Should be “He was weaned off of methylprednisolone over a period of 6 weeks after his symptoms all gradually resolved”
8. Page 8 – Should clarify the part of the sentence about follow up, perhaps “Follow up visits of the patient continued for the next 7 years. No relapse of the symptoms occurred, indicating the patient’s successful treatment and full recovery.”
9. The last sentence on page 8 (continuing onto page 9) about the likelihood of syphilis diagnosis is too long and unclear. It should be revised and split into multiple sentences for clarity’s sake.
10. Page 9 – A section in the sentence about histological features should be “was lacking palisaded macrophages.”
11. Page 9 – The second sentence in the second paragraph about diagnosing syphilis is grammatically incorrect and needs to be revised for clarity.

12. Page 10 – The first sentence about the knee aspirate culture is grammatically incorrect and needs to be revised.

13. Page 10 – The fifth sentence about the atypical manifestation of monoarthritis is grammatically incorrect and needs to be revised.

14. Page 13 – Use of the word “accordingly” is not properly used in the last sentence.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests