Reviewer's report

Title: CD64 as a potential biomarker in septic arthritis

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Reviewer: Vasileios Fotopoulo

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MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS: _

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS: _

DISCRETIONARY REVISION:

In Septic arthritis group there is one case of Mycobacterium abscessus infection and one case of Lyme disease. We know that mycobacterial infections cause chronic, slow progressive monoarthritis rather than acute septic arthritis (duration of symptoms 30 days > 2 weeks). On the other hand, the diagnosis of Borrelia-arthritis was based on history (recent tick exposure) and a high serum IgG-titer (IgM-titer just above cut-off). These do not necessary prove actual Borrelia arthritis. Borrelia can cause a type of reactive arthritis. Thus, it would be better if the authors excluded these two cases.

The Borrelia case was excluded by the authors.

As for the Mycobacterial abscessus infection, the authors chose to include the case in the SA group. I was not familiar with this specific type of Mycobacteria (RGM – Rapidly Growing Mycobacteria), so it is my fault. However, even if the authors say that the duration of symptoms of 30 days mentioned, reflects the time to acquisition of blood samples and not to admission to hospital, I feel that this case should be excluded, especially when they try to explore the discriminatory power of a biomarker with rapid response time. Another objection of mine is that I can hardly consider this case an acute septic arthritis.

NO OTHER COMMENT

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.