Reviewer's report

Title: Inside the labyrinth of postpartum fever: Sphingomonas paucimobilis sepsis associated to pyomyoma

Version: 1 Date: 3 September 2013

Reviewer: Charalambos Siristatidis

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting report of postpartum fever etiology. There are some issues to be considered before publication.

In my opinion, all are major. (Major Compulsory Revisions)

Title: the word “labyrinth” is quite strong. I would consider a “lighter” one. I would suggest the addition of “in the presence of a fibroid”.

The abstract needs improvement in terms of syntax and grammar, for eg. “hystory”. In this section, it is not usual to go for explorative laparotomy because of the fever right away: authors should give a better presentation of their decision.

“Early surgery and appropriate antibiotic treatment”: it might be better to be referred to previously to surgery antibiotic therapy and after this.

The background needs improvement in terms of syntax and grammar. The sentence “and it is fatal without a surgical approach” needs a reference.

In the Case presentation section, please explain with what tests “The lungs and heart were normal as was…”.

“The patient showed an abdominal tenderness”: please rephrase accordingly.

“deformed uterus”: please specify.

“without tenderness to the deep palpation”: how can it be? Fever, bacteremia, a fibroid which is infectious and there was no tenderness during the deep palpation? If so, and I could agree, authors should state this in a more profound way.

“Laboratory tests showed leukocytosis”: please give numbers / results of the tests. That might be of more help.

“A total body CT scan”: one might argue against the necessity of such a test. Findings during surgery had to be found and reported before, during the scans.

“Intravenous antimicrobial polichemotherapy”: Please give details on this therapy.

In the conclusions section “the fever could be the unique symptom especially in early stage: this has to change as fever was not the only one symptom during the work up.

Again here in these and the next sections, the manuscript needs a substantial
improvement in terms of grammar and syntax.
The last section should be shortened.
There are too many names in the authors list for a case report.
I would prefer the image to be presented with something comparable next to the fibroma, or at least to mark the dimensions and probably some short notes on it.
I would also like to see some details on the history of the woman during pregnancy: at what gestational week did she give birth, or if her physician knew about the fibroid before and during pregnancy, and also about the “behavior” of the fibroids during pregnancy and finally about the accidental presence of the Sphingomonas paucimobilis in cultures and authors specific clinical suggestions in cases of postpartum fever.

**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