Reviewer's report

Title: Two cases of cardiac device-related endocarditis due to Streptococcus dysgalactiae subsp. equisimilis (group C or G streptococci)

Version: 2 Date: 30 January 2014

Reviewer: Kai Hang KH Yiu

Reviewer's report:

The case report by Rantala et al. described two cases of Streptococcus dysgalactiae related pacemaker lead endocarditis that was treated with antibiotic +/- lead extraction. This is a new description of this pathogen to cause pacemaker related infection. Overall, this is an interesting article.

Major comments:

(1) The case history is somewhat too extensive. It would be better to make it more concise in both cases.

(2) Since the 1st case had an infected lead explanted, did the author have any microscopic pathology available?

(3) Streptococcus dysgalactiae is a colonizer of the human upper respiratory, gastrointestinal, and female genital tracts, and it is often present in skin lesions. Could the author comment on the possible entry site for these two cases? Did the patients have other concomitant infection during/after the device was implanted.

(4) The 2nd patient was on immunosuppressant for his rheumatology disease, that could make him prone to rare pathogen. This should be mention in the discussion.

(5) Why was both patients not given concomitant gentamicin? To avoid delayed or poor responses of infections because of failure of penicillin, the addition of an aminoglycoside to the cell wall-active agent should be considered for serious infections. (Can refer to this reference for more information: Clin Infect Dis. 2009 Sep 1;49(5):766-72. doi: 10.1086/605085 Human infections due to Streptococcus dysgalactiae subspecies equisimilis. Brandt CM, Spellerberg B.

Minor comments:

(1) Date should be as follow: 1st of January 2011 etc… not 1 January.

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