Author's response to reviews

Title: Meningitis due to Fusobacterium necrophorum in an Adult

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PDF covering letter
Re: Meningitis due to Fusobacterium necrophorum in an Adult

Changes have been made to the manuscript as suggested by the assistant editor and reviewers. Specific responses to each point raised are included below.

Iratxe Puebla, Assistant Editor

The discussion and conclusions have been re-written to avoid duplication from Jaremko et al. In addition, the original source of this information has been cited as reference 3 (Chirinos et al).

The manuscript has been revised to conform to the formatting checklist.

Allan Tunkel, Reviewer 1

1. There were no other imaging studies performed initially. There was no suggestion of brain abscess on the MRI done on hospital day 6.
2. Additional clinical history has been added to case report.
3. Antimicrobial coverage was changed expected the pathogen to be a gram negative aerobe. There was particular concern for pneumonia and UTI as potential sources of infection. Levofloxacin was chosen primarily as empiric gram negative coverage. While there is no data on its use in central nervous system infections, there is data on its penetration into CSF.
4. No autopsy was performed.
5. Information on brain abscess added.
   (Minor)
1. units added for CSF WBC counts.

Renaud Verdon, Reviewer 2

- High CSF WBC count is confirmed. This is much higher than previously reported cases of F. necrophorum meningitis, but the reason for such a high WBC count is unclear (perhaps a later presentation).
- High CSF protein concentration also confirmed.
- There was no evidence of cerebral vein thrombosis by MRI.
- Comments regarding anaerobic culture methods added to discussion and abstract.
- The comment about surgical treatment does not seem to apply to this case. The suspected portal of entry was otitis media which would not ordinarily be treated with surgery in an adult.
- The MIC was not tested for this organism.
   (Minor)
- Temperature now expressed in Fahrenheit and Celsius.
- Vital sign abbreviations have been replaced.