Reviewer's report

Title: Meningitis due to Fusobacterium necrophorum in an Adult

Version: 3 Date: 26 May 2004

Reviewer: Renaud Verdon

Reviewer's report:

General
The severity and difficulty of diagnosis of Fusobacterium necrophorum meningitis has been reported and detailed by several authors, as cited in the discussion. There is no new finding in this report. However, this case-report is well described, the diagnosis is clear. It illustrates the need for physicians caring patients with bacterial meningitis to be very careful and to keep in mind this rare but severe infection.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
- the authors should express the white cell number per cubic milliliter and confirm the extremely high value that was found. If confirmed, they should comment on this finding. What could be the diagnosis value of such high white cells concentration for F. necrophorum infection? Has such a finding be reported by others?
- the authors should confirm the extremely high values of CSF protein concentration
- was there any cerebral venous thrombosis?
- the discussion should emphasize that routine CSF bacteriological examination does not include the use of anaerobic growth media
- the authors should emphasize the importance of a surgical treatment of the portal of entry since, as they observed, medical treatment may not be sufficient.
- was there any attempt to measure the minimal inhibitory concentration of the isolate?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- temperature should be expressed in Celsius and Farenheit
- non english-speaking readers may not be familiar with some abbreviations (P for pulse, BP for blood pressure, etc...)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:

None