Author's response to reviews

Title: A fatal pseudo-tumour: disseminated basidiobolomycosis

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Author's response to reviews:

The Editor, BMC

Amsterdam, May 27th 2006

Dear Editor,

Herewith we submit our manuscript entitled "A fatal pseudo-tumour: disseminated basidiobolomycosis", for the Case Reports section.

The patient described in this case report presented with an obstructing tumour in the colon, for which a hemicolecetomy was performed. Postoperatively he developed a liver mass with a diameter of 6 cm. This posed the treating physicians for diagnostic problems, because neither in the colon nor in the liver a malignancy or a bacterial infection could be demonstrated.

When finally Basidiobolomycosis was diagnosed and antifungal therapy could be started, the patient was already very ill due to a secondary gram negative sepsis, and he died as a result of the sepsis.

We think that this Case Report meets your criteria for publication, in the sense that there was difficulty in reaching the diagnosis. We also think the case provides a teaching point, because although gastrointestinal basidiobolomycosis is a rare disease, the clinical presentation of our patient was characteristic for this disease. The prognosis of gastrointestinal basidiobolomycosis is usually favourable, so better familiarity with this condition may prevent a fatal outcome like in our patient.

Waiting for your decision we remain,

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of all authors

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