Reviewer's report

Title: A fatal pseudo-tumour: disseminated basidiobolomycosis

Version: Date: 15 June 2006

Reviewer: Dimitrios Filippou

Reviewer's report:

As the authors claim basidiobolomycosis of the gastrointestinal tract is a rare entity that presents an increasing in its incidence the last years probably due to the development of new diagnostic techniques or other not clearly identified factors. It is difficult to achieve the proper diagnosis and diagnostic mistakes are often reported in the presented cases.

Major Revisions
Did the authors test the patient’s serum for the present of B. Ranarum specific antibodies by an immunodiffusion test? (in their references the authors refer to Khan et al, who described this technique)
It will be very interesting to have also the photo of the colonic biopsy with the evidence of B. Ranarum in the same plate with that of the liver because there is no photo of the initial specimen.
A short discussion with the appropriate postoperative treatments and the possible clinical and pathological features that increase the suspicion for the lesion and contribute to the diagnosis will be of great value, though the article claims an educational aim.

Minor Revision
As far as I searched the literature I noticed some more papers with a larger number of patients (eg 7 in Lyon et al. 2001) that should be included in the references.
The fatal outcome of the presented case is not similar with the one mentioned by the authors in Reference no 9, because Bigliazzi et al refer to bronchopleural basidiobolomycosis and mainly to an immunosuppressed patient. I think that comparison should be performed between similar cases (patient’s status, diagnostic procedures, treatment modalities and organ-system infections).

Assessment of the Validity of the Manuscript
Accept after revisions.
Although some major revisions are required I think that the paper should be published because it refer to a rare entity and can contribute to the entire knowledge. The increasing number of the reported cases may be helpful to the understanding of the disease.

Level of Interest
An article of limited interest.

Quality of Written English
Acceptable.

Statistical Review
Not required.

Competing Interests
I declare that I have no competing interests.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests