Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment of disseminated coccidioidomycosis with caspofungin and fluconazole

Version: 2 Date: 23 November 2005

Reviewer: carole A sable

Reviewer's report:

General: The authors have presented a well written case summary of a patient with disseminated cocci.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Please describe why caspofungin plus fluconazole was selected as therapy after the patient did not respond to AMB. There are limited data to support this treatment approach and readers would benefit from learning why this treatment was selected.

Reference 12 does not describe efficacy of caspofungin in a murine model of cocci. please correct.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

It would be helpful to provide some additional detail on the clinical status of the patient (beyond defervescence) during combination therapy. Follow up CF titers after stopping caspofungin and recent data (sept 2005) would be helpful. Did the patient experience any residual clinical pulmonary abnormalities?

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 am an employee of Merck & Co., Inc. and was responsible for the clinical development of caspofungin.