Reviewer's report

Title: Q fever endocarditis masquerading as Mixed cryoglobulinemia type II. A case report and review of the literature.

Version: 1 Date: 10 November 2005

Reviewer: Jean-Louis L Mege

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors would like find tools to discriminate Q fever endocarditis and mixed cryoglobulinemia type II. However, the case report described a Q fever endocarditis in a patient with previous valvular damage and cryoglobulinemia. This situation has been often reported. The delay for the diagnosis is an important point but not sufficient to validate the question.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The main question of discrimination of endocarditis and cryoglobulinemia is not supported by the case report which showed a patient with Q fever endocarditis confirmed by serology and molecular diagnosis.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
The title is too aggressive for the problem of discrimination of endocarditis and cryoglobulinemia. Similarly, the last sentence of the Abstract should be modified. In the case report, the authors precised that Brucella serology was performed with Elisa but we do not have any technical information. On page 5, the authors showed the results of Q fever serology. They should precise the method and the cut-off used. Similarly, they should precise which type of primer was used.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
In the Discussion, the authors should integrate the expertise of the md who did tranesophageal echocardiograms since it is known that this expertise is heterogeneous in different health centers. In addition, the cross-reactivity between Coxierlla and Brucella could be analyzed after absorption.

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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