Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1  Date: 11 November 2005

Reviewer: Helen C Maltezou

Reviewer's report:

General

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

This is a well written case report of Q fever endocarditis associated with cryoglobulinemia type II. The following points need to be answered:

1. Case report, page 3, first paragraph: in which hospital was the patient admitted because his present illness? Where was the diagnosis of brucellosis was made in the past? Is there any serology for Coxiella available from his first illness diagnosed as brucellosis? The word "the" should be deleted from the sentence "he received ciprofloxacin for the presumed brucellosis".

2. page 4, second paragraph, line 5: please add the word "and" before ": 1740 mg%".

3. page 4, third paragraph, line 5: Please add the word "and" between the words VDRL and serological tests, and between the words CMV and HIV.


5. Page 5, 3rd paragraph, 4th line: please do not use italics for the phrase: at this time.

6. page 5, 3rd paragraph, 7th line: Please, clarify what kind of specimen was used for PCR.

7. Discussion, page 7, 2nd paragraph, 9th line: please do not use italics for the phrase: completely absent. The same for the word "modified" in page 10, 2nd paragraph, 2nd line.

8. Page 8, 3rd paragraph, 6th line: please do not capital letters for the word "presence".

9. Discussion: It would be interesting if you could include a comment on culture-negative endocarditis. For this reason, please use the abovementioned publications (please look at comment 4).

10. Page 9, 3rd paragraph, 3rd line: What do you mean by the phrase "....... which is usually though self-limiting"? Please clarify.

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

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.