Reviewer's report

Title: Deep neck infection complicating lymphadenitis caused by Streptococcus intermedius in an immunocompetent child

Version: 1 Date: 12 January 2006

Reviewer: Robert A Whiley

Reviewer's report:

General
This case report is clearly presented and is a nice example of thorough microbiological investigation in a clinical context leading to a successful outcome. It is also an interesting case example involving the 'hidden pathogen' Streptococcus intermedius which may well be underappreciated in the medical literature. This report is to be welcomed for that reason too.

I cannot comment on the clinical treatment regimes carried out but from the point of view of the microbiology the authors have investigated this organism fully using the most up-to-date approaches including cytotoxin gene detection to confirm the identity of the bacterium.

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)

Clarify or use an alternative for the expression 'work-up' in the conclusion to the abstract on page 2.

Omit the word 'infection' from the first sentence of the Background on page 3.

Alter the term 'Streptococcus viridans' on line 2 of paragraph 2 on page 7 as this is not a valid species name - this should be changed to 'viridans streptococci'.

I do not understand the first sentence on page 8 starting, 'Contrarily treatment ....etc' This is very unclear and the authors must rephrase this (if I knew exactly what they meant then I might have suggested something!).

Lastly I was interested that the authors do not acknowledge the person(s) who carried out the 16SrDNA sequence analysis and the intermedilysin gene PCR which form a significant part of the investigation and make it 'cutting edge'. Was there a good reason for this?

---

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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

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