Reviewer’s report

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

Version: Date: 28 January 2006

Reviewer: Hideaki Nagamune

Reviewer’s report:

This paper is an interesting case report indicating the relationship between deep neck infection and S. intermedius. Therefore, the present case is worth publishing in this journal after minor revise on the comments below:

1. p3, lines 14-15: ?Over the past three months, ---repeated orthodontic procedures.? If clinical information such as on dental caries or periodontitis during the orthodontic procedures is available, addition of such clinical history is informative for readers.

2. p6, lines 1-2: ?The presence of ---, which has been previously described [6]? Because authors identified the isolated strain as S. intermedius according to the Whiley?s scheme, the explanation of PCR result of the ily gene using the PCR primer set which can specifically amplify the gene in the species of anginosus group streptococci published previously [6] is right and there is no essential problem in the main plot of this paper. However, confusing non-specific amplification was occasionally found in PCR using the primer set in the other streptococcal group previously (Goto, T. etal., J. Med. Microbiol., 51, 178-186, 2002). So, use of a strictly specific primer set introduced in the above paper is recommended for the improvement of accuracy of molecular identification of S. intermedius or confirmation of the ily gene. Some comment on the recommendation of stricter PCR system for identification of S. intermedius in future studies should be included in Discussion.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: None declared.