Author's response to reviews

Title: Mycobacterium avium-intracellulare cellulitis occurring with septic arthritis after joint injection: Case report

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
December 28th, 2006

Dear editors,

Thank you for accepting this manuscript, “Mycobacterium avium-intracellulare cellulitis occurring with septic arthritis after joint injection” for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

In response to Sandra Arend’s suggestions:

- Page 4, line 12: changed “his laboratories” to “laboratory results” at reviewer’s suggestion
- Page 7, line 3: changed “Rice” to “rice” at reviewer’s suggestion
- Figure 2: In response to the comment from the reviewer to label figure with arrow indicating rice bodies, we would like to emphasize this image was chosen because it best demonstrates the avascular necrosis and joint effusion in this case. The manuscript refers to these findings demonstrated on the MRI (Page 7, lines 1-2). The rice bodies were found at surgery and were not meant to be demonstrated in this figure.
- Discretionary Revisions: We appreciate the reviewer’s insight into this possibility. We are not aware of any other patients experiencing similar joint infections at this institution during this period.

In response to Michael Frosch’s suggestions:

- At the time of manuscript preparation, we did not have the results of susceptibility testing from the second joint aspiration after return of the rash. This had to be requested and was a send-out laboratory specimen. Subsequent results indicated the strain was still pan-sensitive. This comment has been included in the manuscript (Page 7, line 16).
- In response to further clinical course information, we have included additional information summarizing the fact that although he responded to continued treatment, he continues to have severe joint pain as a result of the avascular necrosis and permanent joint damage (Page 7, lines 18-21).
- We appreciate this suggestion as a possibility and the provided reference. We have included this as an additional possibility for the development of such a severe infection in this patient (Page 9, lines 6-8).

Written consent was obtained from the patient to publish his case and was faxed to your office at the time of original submission. We also mailed a copy of the consent to your office on December 18, 2006. Please make us aware if you do not receive it.

Sincerely,

David M. Murdoch, MD, MPH