Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 8 December 2006

Reviewer: michael frosch

Reviewer's report:

General
It is a well written manuscript, a comprehensive case report of a patient with nontuberculous mycobacteria infection (NTM) after intraarticular injection and treatment resistant course beside multidrug regimen against NTM

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
none

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 authors should mention whether a drug-susceptibility testing had been performed of one of the positive cultures (before initiation of antimicrobial therapy or after the second joint aspiration).

- The authors should shortly describe the further course of the disease after reinstitution of anti-mycobacterial therapy in September 2005, especially whether they observed persistence of infection or successful treatment.

- Although MAI is ubiquitous and many people are exposed, only few of these exposures result in chronic infection. Beside immunosuppression as a risk factor patients susceptibility for mycobacterial infections is described in interferon gamma deficiency. While genetic defects of INF-? response pathway were rare, recently acquired predisposition due to autoantibodies to IFN-? has been described (Kampmann et al. J Clin Invest 115:2480-88, 2005). Since different autoantibody production especially is observed in patients with rheumatic diseases, this should be discussed by the authors too.

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'