Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 11 December 2006

Reviewer: Sandra Arend

Reviewer's report:

General
This manuscript describes a case of chronic indolent cellulitis and arthritis caused by M. avium, diagnosed 6 months after local steroid injections into the A-C joint. The precise causal relationship between the injections and subsequent infection could not be established. The authors emphasize the rarity of soft tissue involvement in M. avium infections and advocate the culturing of biopsy specimens of unexplained inflammatory processes for mycobacteria.

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

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Specific Comments
Page 4, line 12: .. his laboratories -> laboratory results
Page 7, line 3: Rice bodies -> rice bodies are probably meant (the ‘official’ medical term of which is corpora oryzoidea but in PubMed that only gives two hits while rice bodies gives 84 so maybe the English term is better understood)

Figure 2
The rice bodies could be indicated by arrows (I could not find them)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Were any other patients at that institution diagnosed with soft tissue or joint infections in that period? If not, that would make contamination of injection fluids unlikely and could be added to the report. If yes, the case should not be presented as a case report but a case series would be more appropriate.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'
Sandra Arend