Reviewer's report

Title: Streptococcus intermedius: molecular identification and typing of isolates from a spectrum of clinical cases.

Version: 1  Date: 24 November 2007

Reviewer: Claire Poyart

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Tran et al. described in this work three cases of Streptococcus intermedius infections.

S. intermedius belongs to the milleri group of streptococci, as well as S. constellatus and S. anginosus.

The description of the cases is relatively classical to what have been already reported on clinical manifestations associated with these streptococci. my main remarks are:

1. Does any other bacteria were isolated and in particular anaerobes? this must be mentioned, since anaerobes are frequently associated with milleri streptococci in abscess?

2. In cases 1 and 2, the strains are resistant to erythromycin and clindamycin, the presence of an erm-related gene (erm A or ermB) is probable; this could be easily confirmed by PCR using specific primers. Moreover, what is the susceptibility to tetracycline for these two strains, as it is well known that among streptococci, tetracycline and erythromycin resistant determinants are genetically linked on the same genetic mobile element such as a Tn916 related conjugative transposon. This must be added in the revised manuscript.

3. It is mentioned that partial sequencing of 16rRNA encoding gene was performed, this is relatively imprecise and the coordinates of the primes used to amplify and sequence should be indicated.

4. The photo of the RAPD performed on all strains should be provided instead of the Gram staining showing chains of streptococci.

In general, this paper is too long and could be transformed as a note or a letter, and all figures could be deleted since they do not provide major information.

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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)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests