Reviewer's report

Title: Abscess of adrenal gland caused by disseminated subacute Nocardia farcinata pneumonia. A case report and mini-review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 4 May 2009

Reviewer: Willem J van Son

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) They should give more, and more precise clinical data
   a) Her medical history: what was the medication at admission? Her alcohol addiction: was there evidence for liver disease (for instance cirrhosis)? Malnutrition? Body weight and length at admission?
   b) Lab results: elevated leukocytes, how “much elevated” (including differential count)? Exact numbers should be given (with normal values). CRP: exact numbers must be given, including the course of CRP after treatment. For instance, was the CRP still elevated after antibiotic treatment at the time the abdominal ultrasound was made?

Minor Essential Revisions

2) In their report they state that their report is “one of the first” descriptions of this unusual complication. Please skip this, either you are the first or your report is a confirmation of the first report.

3) Fig 1 is not a picture of the chest X-ray but of a MRI-scan of the brain

4) Figure 3, information about what kind of staining has been used, as well as the magnification of the picture should be provided.

5) What kind of culture technique they used to establish the diagnosis Nocardia infection? Although most routine culture media can support Nocardia, when one has a specimen from a non-sterile site, it may be useful to use selective media such as Thayer-Martin agar or mupirocin/metronidazole blood agar to decrease possible overgrowth of other organisms.

6) Duration of therapy (page 5): several months? Please be more specific. Although optimal duration of therapy has not been determined, in general it is advised to prolong the antimicrobial therapy for 6-12 months after clinical improvement has occurred.

7) Grammar should improve.
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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' below