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: 9 June 2009

Reviewer: Patricia Conville

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The information presented about dissemination of the nocardial infection to the adrenal gland is interesting, but the mini-review presents information from very old references, especially related to drug treatment of these kinds of infections. More precise and useful information can be obtained from more recent literature. This manuscript would be more acceptable if it were rewritten with more clinical information as a case report of the adrenal abscess.

Please describe how the identification of Nocardia farcinica was obtained.

Nocardia should not be described as fusiform (which means that the organism has tapered ends). Nocardia do not have this microscopic morphology.

The authors do not discuss the immune status of this patient or why this patient may have been susceptible to a nocardial infection.

P 3 line 4 Nocardia farcinica does not have a distinct microscopic morphology that would assist in the diagnosis from a histologic stain.

Please check spelling of N. farcinica throughout the manuscript.

Please check for correct English usage and spelling throughout the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions
P 1 line 15 meaning of “a decreasing general condition” is unclear.

P 2 line 10 meaning of “undoubtful diagnosis” unclear

P 2 line 12 meaning of “excluded a systemic endocrine activity of the tumor” unclear

P 2 line 26 meaning of “an abscess suspicious lesions” unclear

P 3 line 4 should be “figure 3”

P 3 line 9 This is not a complete sentence

P 3 line 17 This demonstrates the very old references used in this document. There are now over 80 described species of Nocardia.
P 3 line 17 Nocardia asteroides sensu stricto is no longer considered a major human pathogen. With the use of gene sequencing technologies, few human isolates have 16S rRNA gene sequences similar to the type strain of N. asteroides. See Brown-Elliott et al. 2006. Clinical and Laboratory Features of the Nocardia spp. Based on Current Molecular Taxonomy. Clinical Microbiology Reviews. 19:259-282.

Figure 1 is not a chest X-ray.

Figures 2 and 3 need arrows showing the areas of interest.

Figure 3. Please state which stain was used and indicate Nocardia organisms in the stain.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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