Reviewer's report

Title: Radiographic features of Mycoplasma pneumoniae pneumonia: differential diagnosis and performance timing

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2009

Reviewer: Fumikazu Sakai

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General comments

This article investigated differential diagnosis of M. pneumoniae pneumonia and S. pneumoniae pneumonia with high resolution CT. Most of CT findings of M. pneumoniae pneumonia are already described in previous literatures as authors cited in the references. Authors described radiological findings of M. pneumoniae pneumonia were not frequently seen in S. pneumoniae pneumonia, their results are considered of value from standpoints of clinical practice.

Major compulsory revisions

p.7 chest CT findings
Authors should describe time intervals between the onset of pneumonia symptoms and CT examination, because time interval after the onset of symptoms affects CT finding as authors described in the discussion.

p.9 Results first paragraph
Authors should describe how many patients were excluded from the study because of CAP caused by other or unknown organisms or mixed infection. It is important to know the characteristics of study population more precisely.

p.9 Results third paragraph
Authors should describe interobserver differences in the interpretation of radiological findings. Authors had better examine kappa analysis in the evaluation of interobserver differences.

p.9 Results third paragraph
Authors should clarify bronchial wall thickening means bronchial wall thickening confined or close to areas of ground glass opacity/consolidation or more widespread areas. I think bronchial wall thickening or bronchiolitis is frequently seen adjacent to foci of consolidation in S. pneumoniae pneumonia.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest.