Reviewer's report

Title: Recurrent aseptic meningitis revealing Kikuchi-Fujimoto disease: case report and literature review

Version: 1 Date: 12 August 2012

Reviewer: Armin Rashidi

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:
1. The authors mention in several places that aseptic meningitis in KFL “has not yet received significant attention”. This phrase could imply that it is a common medical problem that has been somewhat neglected. The authors acknowledge that aseptic meningitis is an extremely rare condition after all. Therefore, please avoid the mentioned phrase.

2. Please delete from Discussion the sentence “Four of the 5 patients were Japanese, which may reflect a higher frequency of diagnosed KFD in Japan”. It is redundant in the face of the presented table.

3. Please delete from Conclusions the sentence “A controlled long-term study to investigate the efficacy of immune-moderating therapies in recurrent KFD-associated meningitis is needed”. Aseptic meningitis in KFL, as mentioned by the authors, is extremely rare. Although very interesting, I am not sure how resource-efficient a controlled long-term study on this subject would be.

Major compulsory revisions:
4. English needs to be heavily edited.
5. Figure 1 is too large. Please change it to a smaller and more compact figure.
6. Was atopy a feature of the previously reported cases of KFL/aspetic meningitis? Could this be a syndromic presentation (KFL+atopy+aspetic meningitis)?
7. Please speculate on how KFL could be associated with aseptic meningitis? One causing the other or a third factor causing both? Any literature on this?
8. Why did the patient stay in the hospital for 26 days? It sounds too long to me.
9. KFL frequently presents with a rash. Do the authors think the rash in their case was the “rash of KFL” or a pure coincidence?
10. Was the specimen stained for CD168 too? Could you show the stains for MPO and CD168 (if performed) too?
11. Did the histiocytes have crescentic nuclei?
12. Please use thinner arrows in Figure 2. Could you show a x100 slide for panels B and C instead of x40?
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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