Reviewer's report

Title: Mastoiditis and Gradenigo's Syndrome with anaerobic bacteria

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2012

Reviewer: Lesley M Voss

Reviewer's report:

The authors have described a case of Gradenigo's syndrome along with description of the disease and management. There have been a number of similar case reports published in the literature. This case is unusual in having a combined aerobic and anaerobic organism. Publication of another case does provide reminder to clinicians about this disease presentation, appropriate imaging, microbiology and management.

The abstract is very long for a case report and could be significantly reduced. This abstract should be able to be reduced to 6-7 sentences.

Key words ?acuta should this be acute

Background The second paragraph - thrid sentence should be in discussion. The third paragraph the last 2 sentences are not required.

Case presentation is clear and concise but there are a number of english errors. 2nd para , 2nd sentence "under" beneral anesthetic. last sentence mastoidectomy ( not i). 5th para cefuroxime.. The 1st and 2nd sentence could be joined with an 'and and removal of furthermore. 3rd sentence 'as a" could be removed. In view of the meningeal enhancement it is surprising no CSF was taken - maybe the authors could comment on this, particularly as cefiroxime was used.

Discussion is comprehensive - 3rd para percentages have been written in 2 different ways needs to be corrected. In 1st sentence rather than Staph aureus in interaction with Fusobacterium this should be in combination with.

In 4th paragraph consider a statement encouraging the use of anaerobic culture of specimens from mastoiditis

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' below