Reviewer's report

Title: Large bowel stenosis caused by intrauterine contraceptive device-associated pelvic actinomycosis: a case report.

Version: 2 Date: 5 August 2007

Reviewer: Rod Baber

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Presentations, diagnoses and/or management of new and emerging diseases

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Comments to authors:

General
This case report is on a topic far from original. early associations between IUCD and actinomycotic pelvic abscess were reported more than 30 years ago. Similarly reports of successful treatment with penicillin type antibiotics also exist.

However, most reports of this condition emphasise the need for a surgical intervention and often describe possible unnecessary removal of organs.

The merit of this report lies in the description of the use of MRI ( a new expensive diagnostic tool) with a papanicolou smear ( an old inexpensive diagnostic tool)together with a conservative approach using antibiotics to effect resolution of the disease process. Consideration of such an approach may well reduce the burden of un necessary surgery in the future. It also serves to remind us that actinomycosis may arise even after a very prolonged safe and successful period of IUCD use.

Revisions necessary for publication
What next?: Accept after minor revisions

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