Reviewer's report

Title: Brucella bacteremia in patients with acute leukemia: two case reports

Version: 2 Date: 17 August 2007

Reviewer: Helen C Maltezou

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

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?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

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

Comments to authors:

General
This is a report of two brucellosis cases among immunocompromised patients in an endemic area. The report deserves publication, however there are several points that should be addressed before publication.

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Revisions necessary for publication
1. Abstract, page 2, background: please, change "Brucellosis causes serious infection and bacteremias ..." to "Brucella may cause serious infections in healthy .... ".
3. Abstract, page 2, case presentations, 5th line: please delete the phrase "which required an induction .... leukemic transformation". Also, please delete the phrase "This patient suffered ... of his leukemia".
4. There are several spelling mistakes through out text. Please, use netilmicin instead of netlimicin (Abstract, second paragraph, last sentence, and elsewhere
in the text). Please, correct "doxycyclin" to "doxycycline" (Abstract, page 2, case presentations, last sentence, and page 6, second paragraph, 21st line).

5. Abstract, page 2, conclusion, last sentence: Since there are only two cases presented here, please do not conclude that this illness is curative in immunocompromised patients. It would be better if you associate cure with early introduction of treatment and appropriate duration of treatment.

6. Background, page 3, second paragraph: please, delete this paragraph. At the end of the first paragraph, just mention that you will present two cases among immunocompromised patients.

7. Case presentations, case 1, page 4, second paragraph: please clarify Brucella species (melitensis) in blood culture, the same in case 2(page 6, second paragraph).

8. Please, clarify that the fact that both cases did not noted relapse of brucellosis. Also, describe the duration of brucellosis before diagnosis was established.

9. Case 2, page 5: please, make first paragraph shorter, and just mention that the patient had several infections during his course.

10. Case 2, page 6, 5th line: please correct "complyobacter" to "campylobacter".

11. The discussion part is two long, please make it shorter (one half shorter). It would be better if you could present in one (first ) paragraph a very brief presentation of brucellosis, mode of transmission. The part on changing epidemiology is interestesting and should be kept.

12. You need to discuss in the discussion part brucellosis in immunocompromised patients, and compare with your findings.

13. Conclusion, page 11. Make this section shorter (2-3 lines) by presenting only your conclusion which is that brucellosis should be kept in mind in cases with compatible signs/symptoms in endemic areas or returning from endemic areas, even among immunocompromised patients.

What next?: Revise and resubmit

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