Reviewer's report

Title: Anterior chest wall tuberculous abscess: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 21 August 2007

Reviewer: Nicholas Price

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Comments to authors:

General
TB chest wall abscess is one of the more unusual manifestations of TB but when one considers that TB is one of the world's most common infections, it is really not particularly rare presentation. Furthermore, the authors repeatedly state that TB is unusual in the immunocompetent, which is definitely not the case. We are told this patient is immunocompetent but there is no reference to an HIV test having been performed in the "Case Report". In a patient from the former USSR, I would be concerned about drug resistance and we are not told the drug sensitivity pattern. However, the patient is commenced on standard quadruple therapy but the drug doses as stated are incorrect (for any patient's weight).

Revisions necessary for publication

What next?: Reject

Quality of written English: Acceptable