Reviewer’s report

Title: "Ecthyma gangrenosum without bacteremia in a previously healthy man: a case report"

Version: 2 Date: 17 November 2007

Reviewer: Michael Rosenblum

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?: 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: Over the past 20 years, non-bacteremic etiologies for ecthyma gangrenosum (EG) have been documented within the medical literature but remain outside the scope of most practitioners. This report illustrates a "classic" case of non-bacteremic EG that may have been associated with the oropharyngeal viral infection with concurrent use of oral antibiotics or from local entry following drainage of vesicles. This rare dermatologic manifestation typically associated with pseudomonal bacteremia and immunocompromised states should be included in the differential when encountering an atypical appearing bullous lesion or ulceration in a seemingly healthy individual.

Revisions necessary for publication

Language is repetitious with minor grammatical errors.
The case presentation portion should be reported more concisely.
Mortality of 15% from this lesion in non-bacteremic patients requires further discussion.
What next?: Accept after minor revisions

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