Reviewer's report

Title: Pericardial effusion due to Francisella tularensis with a cross reaction with Legionella pneumophila: a case report.

Version: 2 Date: 5 March 2008

Reviewer: Hartmut Lode

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This case report on a pericarditis due to F. tularensis is of interest and enhances the etiologic spectrum of pericarditis. - However there are some problems with this paper which should be addressed by the authors.

1. The case report is poor. No data on body weight, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, ECG, creatinine, blood count etc.

2. Authors describe pericardial and pleural effusions. Why did they not puncture the effusions and performed microbiological tests including PCR ?

3. One main etiology of pericarditis is TB. Did the authors make a Tb skin test or an Interferon - test?

What next?: Revise and resubmit

Quality of written English: Acceptable