Reviewer's report

Title: Fever due to cracked mercury dental amalgam: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 16 December 2007

Reviewer: Ulf Lindh

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect

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:

Was the amalgam filling removed before blood samples were drawn? It is not quite clear from the text. The worsening of symptoms could be caused by an exposure to mercury during removal of the filling because it is practically impossible to eliminate exposure to mercury.

A second set of blood tests are reported later in the text. However, it is not mentioned how long after the removal these tests were made.

The first sentence of the discussion seems to be contradictory as to the message in the report. It should be changed to a clear statement.

There are statements that no apparent reason was found for the clinical symptoms. Was a differential diagnostic procedure undertaken?

What next?: Accept after minor revisions

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