Reviewer’s report

Title: Community acquired mastitis due to Mycobacterium abscessus: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 5 November 2008

Reviewer: Claudio Piersimoni

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Presentations, diagnoses and/or management of new and emerging diseases

If other, please specify:

Usually reported risk factors seem to lack in this report

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 diagnostic value?: Yes

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The manuscript “Community acquired mastitis due to Mycobacterium abscessus: a case report” by Maria Bruna Pasticci et al. describes a case of soft tissue infection by the above species in an immunocompetent subject. Lack of any pre-existing risk factor is worth of interest.

Numbered criticisms are listed below:

Major criticisms:

1. Page 2 (line 14), page 3 (line 17) and page 4 (line 9). Report detailed histopathology results, rather than emphasize that no cancer was found.

2. Page 6, line 3. ..antimycobacterial susceptibility tests were performed in broth. What kind of liquid DST was performed? Was it a broth microdilution? If so, was
it home-made or commercial? In the latter case, please include manufacturer’s details. MIC values should also be reported.

3. Page 7, line 6. Did you take into consideration that further to a 10-week period of single drug treatment, resistant mutants could have been selected?

Minor criticisms:
1. Page 4, line 19. Replace a fistula developed with a draining sinus developed.
4. Page 5, line 17. Replace on admission was still present an area of inflammation with on admission, an area of inflammation was still present.
5. Page 6, line 12. Replace mycobacterium with mycobacteria.
6. Page 6, line 19. Replace resulted nearly absent with was considerably reduced.

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