Reviewer’s report

Title: Bordetella bronchiseptica pneumonia in patient with AIDS.

Version: 4 Date: 4 February 2009

Reviewer: Andrew David Black

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

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

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?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

I think this is an important case which demonstrates that unusual organisms can cause disease in an immune compromised patient. Care givers of immune compromised patients need to consider the possibility of unusual organisms in their differential diagnosis.

Sputum culture as a means to diagnose pneumonia has short falls and I think that this case study would be strengthened by including information as to how the sputum was collected (i.e. spontaneous or induced) as well as the quality of the sputum (e.g. Bartlett score).

Changes required.
1. Species names should be in italics.
2. References should be numbered according to their appearance in the text.
3. References need to include the names of the authors.
4. References need to be standardised e.g. Authors. Title. Journal Year; volume: page numbers.
5. Abbreviations should be defined at first use in the text.
6. The results should have Systeme International (SI) units.

Important missing information:
1. The duration of the presenting symptoms should be given.
2. Was the sputum sent for mycobacterial stains?
3. What were the ulcers on the forearms mentioned in the main complaint due to?
4. Was the patient previously on anti-retroviral therapy?

Asking a colleague to review the writing style will help with fluency.

Here are some suggested variations:

...rarely implicated in human infections. Rather than ... rarely implicated in infectious in humans. (last sentence of Case presentation in the abstract)

Undiagnosed Bordetella bronchiseptica pneumonia may have fatal consequences. Rather than: Bordetella bronchiseptica pneumonia if misdiagnosed can be fatal in consequences.

Spelling
Last paragraph, first sentence, thirteenth word: caring.
Reference 1 forth word: an
Reference 2 first word: Pneumonia

Although the above may seem daunting this case study is almost ready for publication. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding my suggestions.

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.