Reviewer’s report

Title: Lower respiratory tract infection and rapid expansion of an abdominal aortic aneurysm: A case report

Version: 2 Date: 2 April 2010

Reviewer: Nicolas Nelken

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

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?: No

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:

Good case to highlight the well known and reported perceived increase in rupture of AAA in the face of numerous stresses; this case focuses on pulmonary sepsis. Given the case-report nature of the presentation, association of sepsis and aneurysm rupture MAY be causal or not. There is little in the report other than temporal association to suggest cause, and other studies have documented "staccato" aneurysm growth in 65% of aneurysms followed over time even without obvious known stresses (Journal of the American College of Surgeons - Volume 199, Issue 5 November 2004)

Nonetheless, increasing awareness for the potential risk of aneurysm rupture in the face of sepsis is probably worthwhile. Molecular biological explanations, though interesting, are not particularly
compelling.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that i have no competing interests.