Reviewer’s report


Version: 2 Date: 22 March 2011

Reviewer: G. Marshall Lyon

Which of the following 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?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

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

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This is an interesting case of an unusual presentation and disease course of African histoplasmosis. The authors state that this was an immunocompetent patient. However, they also mention there was some mild wasting. Can the authors please clarify this point? Is the wasting secondary to malnutrition, if so are there any other concerning signs for malnutrition, especially protein malnutrition. Or was the slight wasting somewhat typical for a teenager in Tanzania, especially one from a working class. Malnutrition can be immunocompromising by itself.

The discussion would benefit from some clarification of statements. For example, what is the relapse rate of ketoconazole and itraconazole? Does this vary with
length of treatment? I suggest expanding more the compare and contrasting of histoplasmosis in immune competent and immune compromised patients so that readers may draw upon existing experience they may have with immunocompromised patients.

In the discussion of diagnostics, please provide more specifics on incubation time for culture, and whether urine/serum antigen testing varies by clinical condition, i.e. disseminated, limited pulmonary, etc.

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.