Reviewer’s report

Title: Dysphagia as manifestation of Oesophageal Tuberculosis.

Version: 2  Date: 4 February 2011

Reviewer: Kostas Mimidis

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?: No

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?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

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:

This paper concerns the presentation of two cases of oesophageal tuberculosis. This presentation is rare, as it is reported to represent 0.2-1% of the gastrointestinal tuberculosis cases. However, due to the wide spread of endoscopy an increasing number of patients are reported, mostly from developing countries.

Concerning the cases allow me a few thoughts:

Case 1:

It is remarkable the absence of fever and weight loss in a patient with active TB and an extensive oesophageal mucosal involvement.

There is no time information. How long lasted the diagnostic procedure before treatment initiation?
What was the final treatment outcome concerning mucosal healing of the oesophagus?

Case 2:
What is the relevance of the patient's symptoms ("epigastric and left upper abdominal pain") to the endoscopic diagnosis (6mm polyp)?
What means "good clinical outcome" as the only finding in this patient was an oesophageal polyp? Was the polyp cured by medical treatment or by endoscopic removal?

A few linguistic suggestions:
Medical history instead of "pathological history"
Laboratory tests instead of "analytically"
The patient referred to.....
A right pleural effusion that had resolved....
The diagnosis is usually made by upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and oesophageal biopsy....

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

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