Reviewer's report

Title: Disseminated Mycobacterium bolletii infection in a patient with idiopathic CD4+ T-lymphocytopenia

Version: 1 Date: 27 January 2012

Reviewer: Jaime Esteban

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

First case of disseminated infection due to a uncommon pathogen

Has the case been reported coherently?: No

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?: No

Is the case report persuasive?: No

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:

The article evaluates the first case of disseminated infection due to M. bolletti. This is an interesting case, but needs some clarification before publishing, as follows:

1-M. bolletti is a nontuberculous mycobacteria which had a taxonomic status under discussion, and recently an article has been published renaming this species as a subspecies of M. abscessus. This must be discussed in the manuscript.
2-The patient had a first sample with a positive stain for acid-fast bacilli. However, no results of the mycobacterial culture are given. This is surprising, and these results must be presented in the text.

3-The case is described as a disseminated infection, but only respiratory isolates were described. Are there no other microbiology results? No other sample was processed for mycobacteria? The diagnosis is only a clinical one, if no other results are present. Moreover, M. bolletti isolates from respiratory samples could be colonization, so an isolate from other location is mandatory for a diagnosis of disseminated infection.

4-In vitro susceptibility tests must be performed according to the reference technique. Disc diffusion is useless, and E-test has also problems. Reference technique is mandatory, especially if uncommon results or discrepancies appear in the results.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests