Reviewer's report

**Title:** Post-partum, post-sterilisation tubo-ovarian abscess caused by Fusobacterium necrophorum subsp. Funduliforme: a case report

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 17 April 2012

**Reviewer:** Herman F Wunderink

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect

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?: 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:

This case study describes the first case reporting F. necrophorum subsp funduliforme as the etiologic organism of TOA developing during post-partum period in the patient who just underwent tubal sterilisation.

I feel this is a significant contribution to our knowledge of diseases caused by anaerobic bacteria as well as knowledge of organisms that may cause pelvic infections.

But the microbiological data should be extended for that the report can be published.
Comments:

1. What were the biochemical characteristics of the F. necrophorum subp funduliforme and how were they determined? Was there an API anaerobe performed? If yes than the API anaerobe system´s numerical code must be provided.

2. How many 16S rDNA base pairs were sequenced? The authors must provide a GenBank accession number for their isolate.

3. What was the susceptibility pattern of the F. necrophorum subp funduliforme? Was it susceptible to clindamycin or gentamicin, what were the MIC’s and were they determined by E-test?
For how long was the patient treated with antibiotics and was there follow up of the TOA, for example with echography?

4. Was it a monoculture of F. necrophorum subp funduliforme and on what media was it cultured?

5. The author reports: This species has been divided into two subspecies; F. necrophorum subsp. funduliforme and F. necrophorum subsp. necrophorum. The former subspecies is usually associated with human infection whereas the latter one causes infection in many animals[3].
This suggest that F. necrophorum subsp. necrophorum does not cause infections in humans but this is not true. F. necrophorum subsp. necrophorum is a recognized pathogen, for example in cases of Lemeirre syndrome or hepatic abscesses

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests