Reviewer’s report

Title: Pneumococcal polyarticular septic arthritis after a single infusion of infliximab in a rheumatoid arthritis patient: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 17 October 2011

Reviewer: Rohit Aggarwal

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications

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?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This case report can be improved with following things:
1) Needs clear time frame between infusion and first symptom of worsening of joint pain with swelling or warmth.
2) Need to clarify what were the baseline joints like before infusion and at the time of septic arthritis diagnosis. Since baseline joints were inflamed even before infusion, how authors are sure that infection didn’t start before infusion and is the result of INF. What was the change in joint exam or symptoms that makes author think that there was clear worsening due to infection secondary to INF.
3) Discussion needs to summarize good studies done on INF or other TNF and septic arthritis. For example: Risk of septic arthritis in patients with rheumatoid
arthritis and the effect of anti-TNF therapy: results from the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register J B Galloway, 1 K L Hyrich, 1 L K Mercer, 1 W G Dixon, 1 A P Ustianowski, 2 M Helbert, 3 K D Watson, 1 M Lunt, 1 D P M Symmons 1 ; on behalf of the BSR Biologics Register.

4) Authors should review studies done on infectious risk of TNFs and carefully summarize the risk of septic arthritis reported in those studies including study quoted above.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests