Reviewer's report

**Title:** Sulfonamide Resistance in Disseminated Infection caused by Nocardia wallacei: a case report

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 5 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Patricia PS Conville

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

If other, please specify:

Successful treatment with an antimicrobial that initially gave resistant in vitro results.

**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 is a nicely prepared manuscript describing successful sulfonamide treatment of a patient with brain abscesses caused by Nocardia wallacei. This report is significant in the light of recent conflicting publications on in vitro sulfonamide resistance. The authors give a clear description of the conflicting comments.

**Comments:**

Please check English usage throughout the manuscript
Line 61 Check that the correct reference was cited.

Line 101 You state that using the disk susceptibility method you obtained MICs to various drugs. Please clarify how these MICs were determined as disk testing usually does not give actual MIC values. Please note that broth microdilution is the recommended method for susceptibility testing for Nocardia species, and results should be reported using this methodology.

Line 106 You state that you performed microdilution testing for co-trimoxazole. Please indicate if other antimicrobials were tested using this method.

Line 149 The meaning of “…combination was insufficient to reproduce” is not clear.

Line 154 You should address the inconsistency of your own testing using the disk and MIC methods for TMP-SMX.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I was a contributing author of a manuscript that discussed the difficulties of interpretation of sulfonamide in vitro testing. One of our conclusions was that these tests are difficult to interpret and that resistant results should be repeated as sulfonamide treatment is standard of care for Nocardia infections.