Reviewer's report

Title: Adult Pneumococcal meningitis with normocellular cerebrospinal fluid: two case reports and review of eight previous cases

Version: 1 Date: 6 August 2013

Reviewer: Emmanuel Montassier

Which of the following 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?: 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?: No

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 article by Hiromichi Suzuki and colleagues entitled "Adult Pneumococcal meningitis with normocellular cerebrospinal fluid: two case reports and review of eight previous cases" aims at reporting two adult pneumococcal meningitis cases with a normal cerebrospinal fluid leukocyte count, and review eight other cases in the literature.

This case report investigates a poorly-studied issue, as meningitis cases with a normal cerebrospinal fluid leukocyte count are infrequent in the adult population. It is particularly interesting to address only the adult cases, as performed by the authors. This case report could potentially be of great interest to the broader scientific community.

Discretionary revisions
Is it possible to add precision in the description of the clinical cases?
- Family members or intimate contacts with a similar illness?
- Please give to Glasgow Coma Scale score
- Intercurrent use of antibiotics? (especially in the case with splenectomy)
- Appearance of the patient’s cerebrospinal fluid?
- Case 1: can you describe more pyrexia?
- Please describe more precisely delay between onset of the symptoms and the lumbar puncture.
- Realization of blood cultures? Results?

In the discussion please state that “results of tests on cerebrospinal fluid can be normal, especially when a lumbar puncture is done soon after the start of symptoms”

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests