Reviewer’s report

Title: Thyroid abscess due to Aspergillosis: a case report

Version: 2  Date: 23 December 2013

Reviewer: Seyedmojtaba Seyedmousavi

Which of the 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?: No

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?: No

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:

Marui et al. described infectious thyroiditis in a 20-years-old Caucasian patient that was under corticosteroid therapy due to systemic lupus erythematosus. The authors concluded this was due to Aspergillus infection. The authors succeeded to report clinical manifestation of infection; however they failed to explain enough evidence explaining diagnostics of aspergillosis (morphology and histopathological feature). It is not clear which species of Aspergillus was the etiological agent. The selection of antifungal agents for treatment was already wrong, as fluconazole is known to have no efficacy on Aspergillus isolates.

Given that fungal infection of the thyroid is an extremely rare condition even in immunocompromised patients, this report seems quite interesting for the readers of the current journal, however, there are major concerns regarding this
The paper requires complete editing for English expression.

Histopathology results and picture of hyphae are lacking using GMS or PAS staining.

Identification of Aspergillus spp down to genus level is required instead of defining general term “aspergillosis”.

Importance if PCR should be discussed versus histopathology.

Impact of antifungal susceptibility testing should be discussed to choose optimal treatment instead of choosing wrong agent.

Ethical permission is required for this report.

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited.

Declaration of competing interests:

No.