Reviewer's report

Title: Spontaneous Splenic Rupture: Deciphering the Infectious Causes

Version: 1 Date: 9 August 2014

Reviewer: Mark K Huntington

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

If other, please specify:

Review of unusual condition (not new), prompted by clinical encounter

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:

Useful review of an uncommon condition; especially valuable is the authors' discussion of clinical management in the presence of diagnostic uncertainty (a common situation in primary care) in the penultimate paragraph.

Suggestions for improvement:

BACKGROUND paragraph 2: can be made more concise - redundant with Table 1 data, no need to repeat in text unless there is a reason for special emphasis.

BACKGROUND paragraph 3: please include citations for recommendation on
sports avoidance in splenic rupture and vaccination in context of splenic rupture (without splenectomy).

CASE paragraph 2: consider changing "does not endorse" to "denies"... many do not endorse such activities, yet engage in them, and some endorse them without engaging in them.

CASE final paragraph: malaria is mentioned in table 1 but not in infections ruled out in the workup. As one of the authors is from Africa, it is not clear where the patient originated...comment on malaria may be quite relevant.

DISCUSSION paragraph 1: Table 1 doesn't really address "speedily manage and stabilize"; consider changing to read "As seen in Table 1, the causes for ASR are varied. A multi-disciplinary approach..."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests