Reviewer's report

Title: Cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillator pocket infection caused by Mycobacterium fortuitum: a case report and review of the literature

Version: 2 Date: 07 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Luca Donazzan

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In the article entitled "Cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillator pocket infection caused by Mycobacterium fortuitum: a case report and review of the literature", Dr. Zhu and colleagues report the 28th recorded case of cardiovascular implantable electronic device (CIED) infection caused by a rapidly growing nontuberculous mycobacteria (RGM) species.

The quality of written English is acceptable for publication. There are some typing errors to be corrected.

The 68-year-old patient with a history of tuberculosis and chronic heart failure with an ejection fraction of 32% and left bundle branch block received a CIED to prevent sudden cardiac death and to improve ventricular resynchronization. Unfortunately, he suffered of pocket infection initially treated with skin incision and drainage in a tertiary hospital about 10 days after implantation. Negative blood samples and echocardiography suggested to the authors to perform a pocket reconstruction short after the admission in their centre. Culture results revealed a Mycobacterium fortuitum infection; pocket debridement, device and lead extraction followed. The patient underwent a new device implantation after 1 year of antibiotic therapy and 2 more years of follow-up.

I have the following comments:

- how was the patient monitored during the three years of antibiotic therapy and follow-up? Is the wearable defibrillator a good option in this patient population? Please comment on that.

- Discussion should be shortened.

- A diagnostic and therapeutic flow chart or figure of CIED infections caused by RGM species could be helpful for both to summarize and to fix it in the mind of the reader.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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