Reviewer's report

Title: First case of infective endocarditis caused by Helicobacter cinaedi

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Reviewer: Philippe Lehours

Reviewer's report:

The paper submitted by Bartels et al. describes a case of endocarditis caused by Helicobacter cinaedi. The description of the clinical case and evolution is clear and interesting.

Some modifications could be made to improve the manuscript.

Major Compulsory revisions:
Figure 1. Indicate the DNA concentrations and/or the amount of DNA used for PCR detection instead of the volume in µl. Indicate that the PCR 2 corresponds to a nested PCR.

Figure 1 and results. Explain why the first PCR performed on DNA extracted from formalin-fixed aortic valve was negative. It could be related to the amount of H. cinaedi genome copies and/or to fragmented DNA.

Include a positive control in the PCRs (H. cinaedi DNA).

Explain how urine samples could be positive for H. cinaedi DNA.

PCR on serum sample could be performed.

Micror Essential revisions

Explain the rational of antimicrobial therapy. I agree that there is a guideline for the treatment of such infection. However the authors could refer to some publication (ex: Kiehbauch JA, J Clin Microbiol 1995) in which they show that 19% of H. cinaedi clinical isolate can be resistant to quinolones.

How ceftriaxone could be better than amoxicillin against H. cinaedi? This species is indeed naturally resistant to cephalotin.

Discretionary revision

Explain how DNA from paraffin embedded valve was extracted.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'