Reviewer's report

Title: Pulmonary nocardiosis caused by Nocardia cyriacigeorgica in patients with Mycobacterium avium complex lung disease: two case reports

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Reviewer: Peter N Kao

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Ishii and 15 colleagues describe two patients with mixed pulmonary infections due to Nocardia and Mycobacterium avium.

The two cases are thoroughly described and inform the field about the importance of vigilant monitoring for coexisting pulmonary infections in adult patients with bronchiectasis.

Comment:
Lines 175-178, the authors write "that colonization with nontuberculous mycobacteria may also alter ciliary motility and cause epithelial damage as well as COPD and bronchiectasis."

An alternative possibility to explain the patients' susceptibility to pulmonary and not systemic Nocardia and NTM infection is intrinsic defects in airway clearance, such as a mild form of cystic fibrosis. This was first described in Ziedalski T et al, Prospective analysis of cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator mutations in adults with bronchiectasis or pulmonary nontuberculous mycobacterial infection. Chest 2006 130:995-1002. Bronchiectasis patients with atypical and multiple pulmonary pathogens benefit clinically from airway clearance therapies of daily nebulized 7% sodium chloride and flutter valves. Airway clearance therapies are likely to operate synergistically with antimicrobial therapy to accelerate resolution of airway infections.

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:

No competing interests.