Reviewer's report

Title: Multifocal skeletal tuberculosis in an immunocompetent patient: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 2 March 2015

Reviewer: Domingo Prof. Palmero

Reviewer's report:

The paper “Multifocal skeletal tuberculosis in an immunocompetent patient: a case report” by Ramos de Araujo is an interesting case presentation of an unusual form of skeletal TB with a prolonged treatment very well described. There are some minor comments and a major one (DST) to send to the authors.

ABSTRACT

In all the abstract the word tuberculosis is not mentioned. For the reader is important to mention it in the abstract, that in general is the first approach to the paper. For example the first phrase can be: "The occurrence of multifocal skeletal tuberculous involvement in immunocompetent patients is rare, even in countries where tuberculosis is endemic."

Other issue is that authors mentioned only the compromise of the left knee. It is necessary a bit more of information about the multiple localizations of the TB in this case.

BACKGROUND

The aim of the communication must be the last part of the introduction (line 23, pág 2), not in the middle. The rest of the introduction repeats partially the concepts of the first part. Please merge both parts in one without repetitions, and the objective of the paper at the end of the Background.

CASE PRESENTATION

Page 3, line 25: AFB: "acid fast bacilli" is the usual denomination in English. Please change in all the paper AARB for AFB.

Same level: it is not clear how you determine the presence of M. tuberculosis in the sinovial biopsy. Microbiological analysis means culture and genotypic identification? Please clarify.

Other major issue is the drug susceptibility pattern of the strain isolated. In the paper is not mentioned any susceptibility testing (phenotypical or genotypical). It is unusual the long term treatment necessary to obtain a cure of the patient. The presence of drug resistance needs to be investigated. Please clarify.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION are adequate.

REFERENCES
All the references must be thoroughly reviewed following strictly the reference
citation style of the Journal and using the standard abbreviation of the journal
title, for example:

Page 8, line 13: "Tuberculosis Research and Treatmen". The abbreviated name
of the Journal is: Tuberc Res Treat. (don’t use italics for the title of the journals)

Please take note of the punctuation at the end of the Journal's name:
Example of article within a journal (from the Authors Guide)

Reference 8: only 6 authors and ", et al."

The number of pages must follow the style: 695-7 or 427-32.

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:

None.