Reviewer's report

Title: Brain Abscess due to Mycobacterium avium Complex in an Immunocompetent Host: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 2 April 2015

Reviewer: David Holland

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1. Page 3, Lines 12-13. Bronchiectatic pulmonary MAC commonly occurs in older women without underlying lung disease. There has been some research on this that should be quoted on page 7, Lines 2-6

2. Note is made that the patient is HIV-negative, but no mention is made of when that test was done. Was a test done during this illness?

3. Page 7, lines 15-17: 7/8 patients had some immunodeficiency, but what about the one remaining patient? You state that this is the first case of CNS MAC in an immunocompetent patient, but there appears to be one more.

4. Page 8, Lines 8-16: You should reference the ATS NTM treatment guidelines here, which are more pertinent for immunocompetent individuals. Azithromycin is a perfectly good alternative to clarithromycin and does not interact with rifabutin or rifampin.

5. It would strengthen your paper to give more info about how the diagnosis was made. Since neoplasm was the leading differential, was culture even done up front? Or did a frozen section reveal granulomas which gave a clue to send cultures?

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