Reviewer’s report

Title: Sporadic isolated congenital asplenia with fulminant pneumococcal meningitis: a case report and updated literature review

Version: 0 Date: 14 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Emma Best

Reviewer's report:

Overall an interesting case and good discussion of the rare, prior reports and genetics around inheritable forms of isolated congenital absence of spleen. There is also some discussion around diagnosing splenic insufficiency and detection of Howell Jolly bodies in blood films for septic patients. The discussion around prevention of sepsis in asplenics is inadequate and does not highlight important aspects of future management. The case itself does not have any clear future management plan outlined including vaccination, need for prophylactic antibiotics or advice given to parents of this infant. The reasons for the child being unimmunised in the first place is also not outlined clearly in the case report. There is useful learning for clinicians from the case report but only regarding being alert to the diagnosis of splenic insufficiency in those that present with fulminant pneumococcal sepsis. But also the case should provide an update on the issues around protecting asplenics from their lifelong risk of overwhelming sepsis. The discussion is out of date and poor around the expected vaccinations needed, the pros and cons of antibiotic prophylaxis and consideration of certain more at-risk groups who may require antibiotic prophylaxis (children aged

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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