Reviewer’s report

Title: Probiotics and infective endocarditis in patients with Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia: a clinical case and a review of the literature

Version: 0 Date: 01 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Federico Pea

Reviewer’s report:

The authors presented an interesting case of endocarditis due to L. rhamnosus in a patient with underlying HHT who assumed probiotics and reviewed similar cases published previously.

Overall, the Ms. is well-written and I believe the topic may deserve attention.

However, I have some comments that I would like to be addressed:

- In the description of the case there are some events that are not described in the right temporal sequence (i.e. lines 104-115). Please amend

- Treatment included a combination of amoxi/cav and gentamycin. However from the antibiogram, it appears that the susceptibility to GM was not tested. Please comment.

- The section devoted to microbiology should be moved to supplementary material.

- The discussion is too long and not completely focused on the findings. The Ms. would greatly benefit from a consistent shortening of this section. For example, the concepts stated in the first paragraph have just been included in the introduction and may be deleted (lines 211-257). Conversely, it would be more interesting discussing more in depth the pathogenetic mechanisms of IE caused by L. rhamnosus and the exp model of IE (especially the work of Vankerckhoven V JMM 2007). In regarg to treatment options, it would be interesting discussing the study of Salminen et al. CID 2006 (Clin Infect Dis. 2006 Mar 1;42(5):e35-44. Lactobacillus bacteremia, species identification, and antimicrobial susceptibility of 85 blood isolates. Salminen MK1, Rautelin H, Tynkkynen S, Poussa T, Saxelin M, Valtonen V, Järvinen A.)

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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