Reviewer’s report

Title: A case report of severe recurrent varicella in an ankylosing spondylitis patient treated with adalimumab – a new side effect after 15 years of usage

Version: 0 Date: 09 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Padma Srikanth

Reviewer's report:

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Comments on the manuscript:

The authors have highlighted the occurrence of varicella zoster following immunosuppressive therapy for an autoimmune disorder. The authors are to be commended for documentation of such a case in a precise manner. The discussion on use of immunosuppressive therapy and poses a risk for disseminated Varicella zoster.

The following suggestions are made to add more value to the manuscript:

1. Mark the nodular changes in the X-ray & date the X-ray. Is there any calcification around the hilar region on the Left. Kindly comment on it.

2. Was Ig M done? What are the values of IgG?

3. What was the target site of the PCR performed for VZV DNA?

4. The authors must explain 'reinfection' and 'reactivation' in VZV for readers to have a better understanding of why VZV occurred in this patient. There are several underlying immunosuppressive conditions such as cancer, or post solid organ transplantation states and other immunosuppressants which can pose as risk factors for disseminated VZV. The discussion must include these aspects.
5. Atypical manifestations of VZV are well described and need to be explained as well, as immunosuppressive therapy can mask the typical presentation of VZV.

6. The manuscript must stress on the early laboratory detection and confirmation of VZV as prompt antiviral therapy leads to better patient outcomes.

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

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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:

Acceptable
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