Reviewer’s report

Title: Melioidosis: Misdiagnosed in Nepal

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Reviewer: Chiranjay Mukhopadhyay

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Melioidosis: Misdiagnosed in Nepal

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BMC Infectious Diseases

Reviewer’s comment:

The cases are quite comprehensive and well structured. The article can be of great scientific importance from a country like Nepal where the disease is still undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, and it might be due to lack of proper awareness. There are a few queries the authors need to clarify before the article can be accepted for publication.

1. As it is mentioned in both the case that the patients were diabetic, and it can be presumed that they might be long-standing (but newly diagnosed?) diabetics. It needs to be mentioned if the diabetic status was controlled (esp in Case 2), and if they are on oral hypoglycemic drugs.

2. The isolate was confirmed to be B. pseudomallei by latex agglutination assay. It would be fine to mention whether the latex agglutination test was procured or prepared in house; also the nature whether it was monoclonal antibody based or polyclonal antibody based latex agglutination assay.

3. In case 2, the authors have mentioned the isolate to be resistant to amoxicillin clavulanic acid - this is not impossible, but a bit unusual for B. pseudomallei. How was the organism
differentiated from other species of Burkholderia, especially B. cepacia? What was the Amoxicillin-clavulanic sensitivity in Case 1?

4. In both the cases, the patients received i.v. meropenem as the intensive phase treatment followed by oral cotrimoxazole and oral doxycycline for the eradication therapy. It will be very informative if the authors can add the dosage of these antibiotics prescribed to the patients.

5. Was there any change in Chest Xray or clinical Improvement of the respiratory symptoms of the patient (Case 1) after 28 days of Meropenem treatment?


7. Are the authors planning to perform any soil sampling from the fields where the patients are farming now? It may help authors assume the source of the organism, whether it might be the local soil itself.

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
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Acceptable

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