Reviewer’s report

Title: Cervical anaerobic vertebral osteomyelitis following surgical tracheotomy: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 22 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Konstantinos Bouliaris

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting case of cervical vertebral osteomyelitis probably secondary to a surgical tracheostomy procedure. The authors have made a good effort to support there hypothesis of an haematogenous spread rather than a local septic extension and the manuscript is well written. However, I do have some questions and comments.

1. Why it took so long to perform a tracheostomy? When was the patient extubated? During the stay in the ICU did the patient develop ventilator-associated-pneumonia or other infections which could be possible sources for septic metastasis osteomyelitis?

2. Why did you performed an open tracheostomy rather than a percutaneous one which is associated with less trauma and fewer local infections?

3. The authors should also clarify if there were any signs of local infection during the postoperative days following the tracheostomy procedure.

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

No

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

Yes

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

No
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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