Reviewer’s report

Title: Sclerosing mesenteritis in a 5-year-old Chinese boy: a case report

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Reviewer: Justin Gundara

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Review:

Manuscript: BPED-D-15-00118

Full Title: Sclerosing mesenteritis in a 5-year-old Chinese boy: a case report

This case report serves to illustrate the case of a five year old boy with an undifferentiated history and presentation that was ultimately thought to represent sclerosing mesenteritis. The paper is relatively well written and the rare diagnosis, particularly in paediatric populations warrants consideration for publication.

I have a few areas of concern however that warrant additional consideration:

- was there any prior history (patient or family) of any IgG4 and/or auto-immune related diseases?

- a CT scan was performed during the index admission but the manuscript does not describe the CT findings. This should be corrected and ideally a Figure illustrating the salient images should be added. Given that most institutions will have access to CT, the characteristics of this rare diagnosis would be useful to summarise so as to instigate suspicion of this disease when similar findings are encountered. The barium/contrast study images add little to this paper and should be removed.

- it is unclear why a PET scan was performed. Could the authors clarify this?
- the operative findings do not make it clear if there was evidence of obstructive pathology, and if so if there was one point of transition or if it was multi-level? Additionally, was the disease centred more on the mesentery or the bowel? Again a figure showing the intra-operative or macroscopic specimen findings would be useful here.

- "An ileostomy was created"….I am assuming that this was an end ileostomy. Please clarify and state explicitly in the manuscript.

- Histopathological findings should be discussed in a new paragraph.

- "A diagnosis of sclerosing mesenteritis was finally established". Whilst this is stated, there is no information (new or otherwise) regarding how this diagnosis was made and what information prompted this.

- There is no mention of IgG4 serum subclass levels or tissue immunohistochemistry results. Were these tested and what were the results?

- Current diagnostic schema and standards should be referred to related to the present case.

**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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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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