Reviewer’s report

Title: Successful resumption of tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis after resection of a pulmonary Mycobacterium avium complex lesion: A case report

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jul 2015

Reviewer: Giovanni Sotgiu

Reviewer's report:

The case-report is aimed at describing an NTM disease in a Japanese woman with RA and treated with TCZ. After a surgical intervention she resumed the biological therapy together with the anti-bacterials. The topic is potentially interesting; however, the new findings do not emerge from the critical discussion.

Background

1. Several lines are not supported by sound references. The Authors should include one or more references for every line.

2. More details on the TB and NTM incidence are needed. Furthermore, there should be a geographical variability in terms of transmission of infectious agents.

3. The last line of this section is meaningless. The Authors should better explain what they mean.

4. More rationale is needed to better introduce the topic, including the infectious disease risk in RA patients.

Case-presentation

1. What do they mean with "almost normal findings"?

2. From the pictures it is unclear where the upper lobe was resected.

Conclusions

1. The comparison with previous similar cases was not performed. On this basis, it is important to better underline the new findings of the report.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?

If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess
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.

Unable to assess

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

No CoI

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal