Reviewer’s report

Title: Implication of Species Change of Nontuberculous Mycobacteria During or After Treatment

Version: 0 Date: 27 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Kozo Morimoto

Reviewer's report:
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I reviewed a manuscript written by Lee et al. entitled "Implication of Species Change of NTM During and After Treatment. I found a few interesting findings in this manuscript, but there are several concerns I would like to ask the authors before published in the international journal.

Major Comment.
Although the authors define the "Newly isolated NTM species" as "disappearance of initially isolated NTM species and isolation of new species at least 2 times". This definition must have excluded the important cases such as who had positive culture at the same time during the treatment, and who had positive culture before the treatment initiation. Those important data were needed to be explained. At least, they should indicate the number of the cases who had one isolation and clarify the clinical significance of it.

Although the authors stressed that the proportion of the functional erm gene was high in this cohort, the readers should want to know the reason that the proportion of C28 sequevar was higher in the previous study they conducted than other reports.
Minor comment.

L120: 4% sodium hydroxide (NAOH) seemed to be a higher concentration comparing to the other report. The method would have influenced on the clinical significance of the isolation. The authors need to discuss more about the cases who had new MAC isolates during M. massiliense treatment. Why only one case developed CAM resistant? Similarly, they need to discuss the acquired resistant in the case with M. abscesses. Most of the cases did not have acquired resistance, right? I think those are important findings.

Good work!

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.

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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