Reviewer’s report

Title: Acute exacerbation of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis induced by pertussis: the first case report

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Reviewer: Paolo Spagnolo

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Hirai and colleagues reported on two patients with IPF who developed an acute worsening - referred to as acute exacerbation (AE) - following Bordetella Pertussis infection. Both patients were discharged home after treatment with macrolides and systemic corticosteroids. To the best of my knowledge, such etiology for AE-IPF has not been reported before. IPF patients experiencing an AE have a poor prognosis, generally because the worsening is generally "idiopathic" or, at least, no clear cause for such worsening is identified. Therefore, treatment of AE-IPF is generally supportive. I found the manuscript interesting and well written.

My only comment relates to the diagnosis of pertussis, which in this case was diagnosed based on serological testing. The US CDC considers culture the diagnostic gold standard for pertussis, although PCR and serology are accepted alternative diagnostic modalities. The Authors may want to expand on this.

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?
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Unable to assess

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Yes

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