Reviewer’s report

Title: Retroperitoneal abscess with pylephlebitis caused by lumbar acupuncture: A case report

Version: 1 Date: 04 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Roneil Parikh

Reviewer's report:

Congratulations to the authors for presenting a wonderful case and the difficulty associated with the diagnosis and management of occult retroperitoneal abscesses. Acupuncture is a rare cause and this does highlight the potential morbidity associated with the same in a non sterile fashion/untrained hands.

Suggested revisions:

There are many grammatical errors in this paper and needs to be carefully revised so that it is better to read.

I have tried to highlight a few below along with other queries.

1. Title - Is this a "FATAL" RA - implying the patient died - Title could be revised

2. Line 24 - Please attach RA next to retroperitoneal abscess to define the abbreviation in the paper than at the end of the manuscript

3. Line 38 - ? word fatal - also across the entire paper can be replaced

4. Line 39 - Sentence cannot start with "And"

5. Line 67 - Jaundice is a sign, not a symptom

6. Line 68 - The mentioned blood tests do not demonstrate "EXTRAHEPATIC" bile duct obstruction. It is hard to say where the obstruction is without an ultrasound.

   Any reason a biliary Ultrasound was not performed if the non contrast CT was inconclusive?

7. Line 76 - "we planned to perform critical care with fluid resuscitation" And " for shock reversal" are improper terms and sentence needs to be re-written
8. Line 86 - Was there evidence of Hepatic portal venous Gas or pyelphlebitis or thrombophlebitis?

9. Line 91 - "Mucosal lesion" - was there any evidence of diverticular disease

10. Line 94 - "diagnostic operations" implies more than one? Do you mean an exploratory laparotomy?

11. Line 106 - "distant" replace with ?other possible sources

12. Line 108-111 - "which might be identified" - Very confusing - Do you mean you commenced empiric vancomycin to cover for MRSA?

13. Line 147 - "Diagnostic laparotomy"

14. Line 151 - Do you mean the spinal level of acupuncture was consistent with the site of the RA?

15. Figure 1 : Arrow suggested presence of gas in the biliary tree - But has been called as "thrombophlebitis" ?? Is that Portal venous gas or Abscess in vein with gas?

16. Figure 2: ? Gas in vein - not worsening "Thrombophlebiitis"?

**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.

No

**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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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