Reviewer’s report

Title: Osteomyelitis complicating secondarily infected atopic eczema: two case reports and a narrative literature review

Version: 0 Date: 27 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Stefanie Ziehfreund

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

The presented cases make a significant contribution on the topic and illustrate in association with the data generated from the literature review the need of definitive management of the underlying AE.

However, in my opinion, before suitable for publication in BMC dermatology, the manuscript requires revision for language, references and organizational structure.

Title: I would suggest you to rethink your title. By reading it the first time I was confused and expected something different as provided in your manuscript. Something like "Osteomyelitis induced by secondarily infected atopic dermatitis…", in my opinion would be better.

In summary:
Why have you given a summary of the results from your literature review in the background section? And why have you not given all references in respect to the citations (AFAIK, there is no reference limitation in BMC dermatology), nor did you refer to the supplementary table which would provide a great overview?
I didn't read a case report combined with a literature review structured like yours before. I would have expected a short introduction or some background information with your objectives; followed by the two case presentations (as you did) and the literature review of the case reports/series published so far (may or may not include methodological approaches); finally, a discussion of your results and a conclusion.
Another option, of course is to present your reviewed literature within the discussion.
I would recommend you to change your organizational structure and to accurately cite sources you used in your research.

Abstract:
Caused by your structure you didn't mention the literature review within your abstract. This requires modification in accordance to your revised manuscript.

Background:
I suggest you to revise your background as mentioned above.

Case presentation:
The case representations were done accordingly to the checklist when writing a case report. However, I'm not familiar with the medical sequences required in such a cases, as I'm not a dermatologist. Thus, I lack the expertise to fully evaluate it.
Following the case presentations I would suggest to report the results of your literature review including your supplementary material. However, you can review other published case reports combined with a literature review to check their structure of presentation.

Discussion:
The discussion raises many important points. However, some points simply repeats aspects already given in your introduction. A new structure would eliminate this.

References:
The references of your literature review also need to be included in your reference list.

Supplementary material:
Your supplementary table provides a great overview of your screened literature. However, I ask you to structure the listed publications (e.g., year of publication, relevance..) and to add a legend including all abbreviations used. Additionally, references are needed here as well.

Minor comments:
- Decide whether to use atopic dermatitis or atopic eczema and use the abbreviation after the first time. I think to switch is not appropriate.

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.

Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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:
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5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

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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.

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