Reviewer’s report

Title: A case report of iatrogenic deterioration of yet undiagnosed Rhombencephalitis; always be careful with corticoids.

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Reviewer: Claudia Gravekamp

Reviewer's report:

Comments to authors

This is a very interesting case about a patient with a Rhombencephalitis and an undiagnosed Listeriosis. Cultures from blood and liquor cultures were negative in the beginning of the disease. Only later when the patient was in advanced stage of the disease, Listeriosis was diagnosed through cultures. It has been reported that patients with Rhombencephalitis are usually immune competent and treated with corticosteroids. However, after starting the corticosteroids and antibiotics the patients worsened. After the correct diagnosis was made, antibiotics was changed. However, the patient showed further deterioration and died by the Listeriosis. They concluded that the corticosteroids may have intensified the bacterial growth.

It seems the correct conclusion, i.e. that corticosteroids may have promoted the growth of Listeriosis. Since the Listeriosis is difficult to diagnose in the early stage (like many other types of sepsis), may be a more sensitive assay could be used. For instance, a PCR specific for Listeria on blood, liquor and urine may provide an earlier diagnosis compared to the blood and liquor culture. This could be mentioned in the discussion.

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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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes
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