Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors and treatment of pneumothorax secondary to granulomatosis with polyangiitis: a clinical analysis of 25 cases

Version: 0 Date: 01 Dec 2017

Reviewer: D Galetta

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The Authors reported an interesting short review of the literature about cases of patients affected by pneumothorax (PNX) secondary to granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA).

Their main objective was to investigate the risk factors and the treatment strategies of this disease.

I would like to address some observations and comments:

1. At page 4, line 7, the Authors reported Figure 1. The picture is appropriate but it may be useful in the legend of this figure to describe the microscopic features of the picture itself.

2. At page 4, lines 34-39, the Authors cited a case treated by themselves: due to the fact that this case report has been already recently published, it could be very interesting to add this article to the references (Exp Ther Med. 2017 Jun;13(6):3586-3590).

3. The Authors included among the different types of PNX also the cases with empyema; they should clarify why these 8 cases were included; if they showed a clear PNX at chest X-ray or CT scan; or other reasons.

4. At page 8, at lines 49-51 the Authors reported that "… lack of response to pleural drainage… "; they should explain what means "response to the pleural drainage.

5. In Table 4 the acronym ERS should be elucidated in the bottom part of the Table.

6. In Table 4 are reported 7 cases of patients who underwent surgery; the Authors should in the Results paragraph clarify if the surgery was performed for the treatment of the PNX or for other reasons.
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