Reviewer's report

Title: Tuberculosis presenting as multiple intramuscular nodules in a child: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 4 December 2014

Reviewer: Lee Fairlie

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

Thanks, this is an interesting case.

My primary concern about the case is that I don't think that it convinces the reader that tuberculosis was the cause of these lesions for the following reasons:

- There was no history of a TB contact (I appreciate that the contact may not have been identified and that she may have been infected at school etc. or this may have been reactivation of latent TB
- She had a non-reactive PPD
- The initial biopsy showed that there were features suggestive of parasitic cysts which suggests that neurocysticercosis or hydatid cysts were a very likely diagnosis
- She had a positive cysticercus IgG
- Given that there appeared to be no progression, could this have been a natural progression of neurocysticercosis? Were the lesions re-Xrayed once resolved as perhaps they had calcified rather than completely resolved as would be expected from neurocysticercosis?
- No acid fast bacilli were identified from the lesions, geneXpert was negative and TB was not cultured from the lesions.
- The child did respond to TB treatment but as previously mentioned this could have been natural progression of neurocysticercosis?

I think that this is an interesting case but that it should be reframed as a diagnostic dilemma as there is not clear proof that this is TB.

There are a number of grammatical errors and the manuscript would benefit from revisions and edits based on this.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests