Reviewer's report

Title: Septic shock due to Pasteurella Multocida bacteremia

Version: 3  Date: 30 January 2015

Reviewer: Takahiko Fukuchi

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

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?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

This is a case report of bacteremia due to _Pasteurella multocida_.
It is certain that _Pasteurella_ species can cause severe infection as this article shows.
However, there are some irrelevant interpretations during the clinical course.

The authors conceive that the origin could be a skin scratch from a cat, but there can be other possibilities. Although the patient’s bronchial brush and sputum cultures were negative, the possibility of respiratory tract infection caused by colonization on COPD lung existed because she had already administered antibiotics. If there are signs of cellulitis proven by culture which revealed the same pathogen, bacteremia can be explained due to skin and soft tissue infection. In this case, according to the authors, the cat scratch is the only
possible evidence. Thus it is necessary for them to support their belief for this source of infection.

On the other hand, the cause of the death of her previous cat was unclear. If the authors considered the existence of rabies, the fact must be mentioned. However, I cannot evaluate this possibility for assessment because _Pasteurella_ has shown to affect cats only very rarely. Therefore, the source of infection could either be the first or the second cat. Even if _Pasteurella_ could be identified from their throats, these results cannot prove a transmission pathway to this elderly lady.

In addition, there was not enough explanation for the use of the antibiotics: imipenem-cilastatin, while the authors mentioned the susceptibility of _Pasteurella_. The authors should be more careful in their selection of antibiotics on academic articles.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.