Reviewer’s report

Title: Sphingobacterium spiritivorum Bacteremia due to Cellulitis in an Elderly Patient with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Congestive Heart Failure

Version: 0 Date: 19 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Mansoor Abdulla

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?

Yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

Comments: no

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?

Yes

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.

a. The relevant patient information, including:
   - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity)
   - Main symptoms of the patient
   - Medical, family and psychosocial history
   - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes

b. The relevant physical examination findings
c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at T = 0, follow up at T = 1 month.

d. Diagnostic assessments, including:
- Diagnostic methods
- Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)
- Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits

Comments: 1. Examination findings should be narrated in order - general examination, vitals, systemic examination

2. His chest wall was enlarged (barrel chest), and coarse crackles were heard on both lung bases. Wheezes were also heard.

Can be rewritten as

He had barrel shaped chest, coarse crackles over both lung bases and wheeze.

Please mention the areas where wheeze was heard.

3. Include the chest x-ray findings, arterial blood gas analysis, ECG findings and PT/aPTT results.

4. Did the patient have a respiratory infection? What was the sputum culture report.

5. Can Sphingobacterium spiritivorum cause respiratory infection?

6. Mention the SOFA score.

7. Heart rate, 96 beats per minute - was the rhythm regular?

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?

Comments: yes
6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments: yes

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?

Comments:

yes

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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