Reviewer's report

Title: Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection acquired through a traditional healer's ritual: A case report

Version: 0 Date: 17 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Rahul Arora

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?

Yes/No Y

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: Y

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

Yes/No

Y

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) Y
      - Main symptoms of the patient N
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history N
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes N
b. The relevant physical examination findings N

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. N

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

e. Types and mechanism of intervention Y

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

Comments:

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

Comments:

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/No N

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

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

Comments: Y

9. Additional comments for the author(s)? Please understand that you are making a very contradictory statement at a time when an attempt is being made to integrate the traditional healers in the prevention of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. I understand that the practice highlighted in the text deserves to be discouraged in the strictest terms. However, this should ideally be a part of the national policy of your country of origin. I would advice you to write a letter to the concerned health authorities to highlight this issue at the earliest. There should be no doubt about the exact mode of transmission. I am also of the opinion that the father needs to be followed up. The essence of the conclusion should be in accordance with the correct and morally unambiguous/ethical approach to the larger problem being discussed.

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

An article of limited interest

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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

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5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no conflicts of interest.

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