Reviewer’s report

Title: Multilevel Lumbar Spine Infection due to Poor Dentition in an Immunocompetent Adult: A Case Report

Version: 0 Date: 29 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Pınar Çeltikçi

Reviewer's report:

Authors present a case of multilevel lumbar spine infection due to poor dentition in an immunocompetent adult. Issues and my recommendations regarding this manuscript are listed below.

Case Report:

1) I don't think use of the term 'Panorex' is quite appropriate for describing the imaging presented in the manuscript. 'Panorex' is a method for acquiring 'panaromic radiograph' for dental evaluation. I would suggest authors to replace this term with 'dental panaromic radiograph'.

2) Page 5, line 19 - 22; 'A CT-guided biopsy targeted an abscess that had eroded the left side of L4 (Figure 1; C and D).' Although the sentence explains a CT finding, Figure 1; C and D are MRI images. Authors should add CT guided biopsy images to improve the manuscript visually and/or change the place of this figure citation to its appropriate place.

3) The only claim for uniqueness of this case report depends on the fact that poor dental hygiene caused the spinal infection without any dental intervention. Patient does not have a history of a dental procedure. However, it is somewhat hard to determine or prove the absence of dental manipulation by the patient (use of toothpick, etc.). This is even more probable as the patient would be expected to have dental discomfort due to the poor condition of his teeth. One way to partially fix this issue could be providing a photograph of the patient's mouth that would show that there are no signs of external manipulation.

4) Patient follow-up information and imaging would improve the manuscript.
Figures:

Figure 1: Figures are not well aligned with each other. It would be a better if the pre-contrast T1 images were added that would demonstrate contrast enhancement and show low T1 signal of the infected disc and bone. Additionally, the levels of axial images are not given in the caption.

Language:

There are some minor spelling and grammar errors;

* Page 2, Abstract misspelled.

* Page 4, line 36; should be '…chest X-ray…'

* Page 5, line 48; '…includes…' should be '…include…'

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

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