Reviewer’s report

Title: Postpartum infective endocarditis with Enterococcus faecalis in Japan: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 26 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Dr. Nakaharai

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:

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:

a. lack of information about medications including supplements, or Chinese herbs (if the patient took them before admission)

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

Comments:

See below

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:

See below

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

Comments:

See below
9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

Major comments:

I just understood that the authors experienced a rare case of a young female diagnosed with postpartum IE due to E. faecalis. I think this is a very interesting topic. But, I couldn't understand what the authors wanted to show through the present case (e.g. What is new or unique compared to previous cases? What should we learn from this case? Will your findings help the readers to do better practice and, if so, how? Simply, what is the theme of this report?).

Additionally, there is lack of discussion about why the authors thought that this IE was associated with prophylactic antibiotic use. In discussion, the authors redundantly wrote about textbook matters and findings of previous studies [e.g. Enterococcus colonization and superinfection due to previous antibiotic use, synergic effect of AG(is this associate with main theme of this case report?)]. These were inadequate as discussion. I would like to recommend that you logically DISCUSS about why you thought prophylactic antibiotics was more responsible for the patient's IE compared to "other possible reasons".

Minor comments:

1. I think intestinal tract is one of major site of bacterial entry. If you have checked abd CT or colon fiber for screening, the information may help the reader understand this case.

2. Lack of information about medications including supplements, or Chinese herbs (if the patient took them before admission).

Please consider the above points.

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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