Reviewer's report

Title: Foodborne botulism due to ingestion of home canned green beans

Version: 0 Date: 19 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Zachary Corbin

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.
   No
   Comments: None

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): Yes
      - Main symptoms of the patient: Yes
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history: Yes
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes: N/A

   b. The relevant physical examination findings
      Yes
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.
Yes

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


e. Types and mechanism of intervention
Yes

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits
Yes
Comments: The cases are presented completely.

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?
Yes
Comments: The cases support an interesting argument for modification of the German guidelines.

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?
Yes
Comments: Well-summarized.
8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?
Yes
Comments: Very interesting and thought-provoking.

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?
Only one significant specific comment: Page 7, Line 1 - Would open the sentence with something like "As proscribed by the German guidelines,"

Other minor comments generally to refine language, which you may use or not: (Page, Line)
(2, 2) Switch deteriorating to progressive
(2, 4) Should you say "affects groups?"
(2, 14) Switch his to her
(2, 16) "presented with"
(2, 19) Switch disorders to changes
(2, 24) "in the serum..." and should you comment here that the serum was found in the beans?
(2, 43) usually called randomized controlled trials
(2, 46) take out "prevailing view according to the"
(2, 48) "in the case..."
(3, 2) take out the comma
(3, 4) "wound, and..."
(3, 14) Switch "first of all" for something like "most commonly?"
(3, 21) These are the rates for toxin in the serum or stool, I believe.
(4, 2 - 4, 4) take out the commas
(4, 7) "on the ventilator,"
(4, 19) I would pick either white or caucasian.
(4, 21) "bilateral ptosis,"
(Pages 4-6) would switch tetraparesis to quadraparesis
(4, 38) take out the comma
(5, 16) I would pick either white or caucasian.
(6, 56) take out the commas
(7, 4) add commas around "e.g. ... (WHO)"
(7, 19) take out the comma
(7, 29) "on day 6,"
(7, 34) "after symptom onset,"
(7, 36) take out the comma
(7, 41) "in the blood"
(8, 2) switch also to when

**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

**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.

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