Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0  Date: 17 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Tresa McGranahan

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) yes
      - Main symptoms of the patient yes
      - Medical, family and psychosocial history yes
      - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes yes

   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) yes
- 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 through end of hospitalization yes.

Comments: Important inclusion of post discharge mood and cognitive symptoms.

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?
Comments: Yes however consider 1) Autonomic symptoms and findings better reported in literature than authors suggest (even in mild botulism). Also the suggestion that delirium related to retrograde axonal transport of toxic unsubstantiated. Critical illness is sufficient to account for delirium.

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:
8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature? yes
Comments: This case is certainly applicable in Germany given current restrictions on antitoxin use, but is also applicable for other areas where food borne toxicity is less reported and natural history with prolonged hospitalization is not well published.

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?
Consider including what was tested on EMG/NCS (did it include rep stim and any cranial nerves tested).
Consider emphasizing 8 and 11 month hospitalizations.

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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