Reviewer’s report

Title: Curative treatment of recurring Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase (KPC)-producing Klebsiella pneumoniae septic shock episodes due to complicated soft tissue infection in a patient with severe vertebral trauma, using a ceftazidime-avibactam based salvage antibiotic combination: a case report

Version: 1 Date: 29 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Oliver Schildgen

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:

I do not have ethical concerns.

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 => no, see comment below
   - 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 => yes

Comments:
Especially in airway infections a more detailed methods sections is required. Have all respiratory pathogen be tested? Were there other pathogens (fungi, viruses) that may have synergistically led to the crisis?

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?
Comments: except my comments above, yes

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

Comments: yes

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

Please provide more Details on pathogens' detection as mentioned above and discuss if there were co-infections and their putative influence on the clinical course, if any

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

An exceptional article

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

Acceptable

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

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 competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal

Were you mentored through this peer review?

No