Reviewer's report

Title: A suspected Case of Clostridium perfringens sepsis with Intravascular hemolysis after transhepatic arterial chemoembolization

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Joanna Chaffin

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 have no ethical concerns.

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?
   Mostly. The introduction seems very relevant until the discussion tells us how many similar cases have been described before.

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 few important dates are unclear. Specifically, how long ago was the patient initially diagnosed with HCC and is this the first or second time the patient has undergone TACE? I found the abstract and the case presentation confusing on these details.

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

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?
   The case is certainly interesting but not really unique. It seems that the greatest contribution of the article is in reviewing the literature and compiling the findings of the previously described cases. I suggest focusing more on developing the literature review portion of the paper. Go into more detail regarding the abnormal laboratory findings in these cases (e.g. Instead of "liver function enzyme levels were slightly elevated", give the reported values and mean of those values). Mention the literature review in the introduction. This will emphasize what the article has to offer that has not been said before.

**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:

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

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

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Were you mentored through this peer review?

No