

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 51638

Date: 15/05/2025

Title: *A Silent Invader: Cutibacterium acnes Endocarditis Presenting with Obstructive Mitral Vegetation and Catastrophic Embolic Complications*

Recommendation:

- ✓ Accept as it is
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 15/05/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This case report effectively spotlights a rare presentation of native mitral valve endocarditis caused by *Cutibacterium acnes*, emphasizing its potential for causing severe systemic embolization and the diagnostic complexities involved. It underscores the necessity for heightened clinical suspicion and rigorous microbiological testing, including prolonged culture incubation, to identify such insidious pathogens. While providing valuable clinical insights, the report calls for further research and guidelines to optimize management strategies in similar high-risk cases. Overall, this paper contributes meaningful knowledge to the limited literature on *C. acnes*-related native valve endocarditis and its catastrophic potential if not promptly diagnosed and managed.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

- **Rare Case Presentation:** The paper highlights an uncommon etiology of infective endocarditis caused by *Cutibacterium acnes* affecting a native mitral valve, adding valuable insight into atypical infectious scenarios.
- **Detailed Clinical Description:** It provides comprehensive details of the patient's presentation, diagnostic workup, including echocardiography and microbiological findings, which serve as a good reference for clinicians.
- **Emphasis on Diagnostic Challenges:** The discussion underscores the difficulties in diagnosing *C. acnes* infection due to its ubiquitous skin presence and slow culture growth, emphasizing the need for vigilant microbiological protocols.
- **Highlighting Embolic Risks:** The case illustrates the devastating systemic embolic complications arising from mitral valve vegetation, reinforcing the severity of such infections.
- **Timely and Relevant Literature Review:** The incorporation of recent guidelines and studies (e.g., ESC guidelines, recent case reports) provides context and relevance.

Weaknesses:

- **Limited Generalizability:** As a single case report, the findings cannot be generalized to broader patient populations but serve as an illustrative example.
- **Lack of Long-term Follow-up:** The report does not provide information on the patient's long-term outcome or management strategies post-intervention.
- **Insufficient Detail on Treatment:** The paper briefly mentions management but lacks comprehensive discussion on antimicrobial therapy specifics, duration, and decisions regarding surgical intervention.

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- **Absence of Comparative Analysis:** There is minimal discussion comparing this case with other similar cases or epidemiological data, which could enhance understanding of *C. acnes*-related endocarditis.
- **Potential Bias in Diagnosis:** The difficulty in distinguishing contamination from true infection by *C. acnes* could impact diagnostic accuracy; however, the paper does not delve deeply into eliminating this uncertainty.