

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52604

Date: 02/07/2025

Title: Beyond the Ordinary – Atypical Mycobacterium in Appendicular Abscess

### 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: 02/07/2025

### Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The paper successfully highlights a rare but clinically significant cause of appendicitis—causative agents being atypical mycobacteria. It underscores the importance of considering atypical mycobacterial infections in differential diagnoses, especially in atypical presentations or immunosuppressed individuals. The detailed case report exemplifies the diagnostic challenges and emphasizes the need for targeted microbiological and histopathological investigations. However, the study's limitations—principally reliance on a single case, limited methodological detail, and scant discussion on management strategies—call for further research and larger case series to better understand the epidemiology, optimal diagnostic workup, and treatment protocols for this uncommon entity.

### Reviewer's Comment / Report

#### Strengths:

- Novelty and Relevance:** The paper addresses a rarely reported cause of appendicitis—non-tuberculous mycobacterial infection—filling a knowledge gap and emphasizing the importance of considering atypical mycobacteria, especially in immunocompromised patients.
- Comprehensive Literature Review:** The introduction and discussion sections reflect a thorough review of existing literature, tracing the history of tuberculous and atypical mycobacterial appendicitis, including incidence rates and diagnostic challenges.
- Clinical Case Illustration:** Inclusion of a detailed case report (Page 2) provides practical insights into presentation, diagnostic process, microbiological findings, and management, making the discussion more tangible and applicable to clinical practice.
- Diagnostic Focus:** The paper emphasizes critical diagnostic aspects such as histopathology, acid-fast staining, and microbiological cultures, underscoring the complexity of diagnosing atypical infections.
- Awareness of Diagnostic Challenges:** It highlights the difficulty in early and accurate identification of atypical mycobacterial infections, advocating for high clinical suspicion.

#### Weaknesses:

- Limited Sample Size:** The paper mainly relies on a single case study, which limits the ability to generalize findings or establish broader epidemiological conclusions.
- Lack of Detailed Diagnostic Pathway:** While it mentions the importance of histology and microbiological testing, the paper could benefit from more detailed descriptions of specific diagnostic protocols (e.g., molecular tests, biopsy techniques).
- Absence of Long-term Follow-up Data:** The report notes that the patient has been asymptomatic after treatment, but lacks detailed follow-up information, such as duration, recurrence risk, or complications.

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4. **Insufficient Discussion on Treatment Protocols:** Management details are minimal, lacking discussion on specific antimicrobial regimens tailored to atypical mycobacteria, duration of therapy, and response monitoring.
5. **Limited Visuals:** Only minimal figures are provided (Page 1 images and intraoperative findings), and additional histopathological images would enhance understanding.
6. **Discussion Scope:** The discussion about broader epidemiology, environmental sources, or immunological factors influencing susceptibility remains superficial.