

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55987

Title: A Case of Fever with Diagnostic Dilemma

### 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:** 30.01.26

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

#### Strengths of the Study:

- The manuscript addresses a clinically significant issue of infective endocarditis, especially within the Indian context, highlighting regional epidemiological factors.
- It provides detailed clinical presentation, investigations, and management of the patient, offering valuable insights into diagnostic challenges.
- The case underscores the importance of a multidisciplinary approach and emphasizes the role of echocardiography in diagnosis.
- The discussion effectively relates the case findings to existing literature, especially in developing countries.
- The report stresses important considerations such as prior antibiotic use leading to culture-negative endocarditis.

#### Weaknesses of the Study:

- As a single case report, the findings have limited generalizability.
- Lack of microbiological confirmation; blood cultures were negative, which affects the diagnostic clarity.
- Limited detail about the follow-up and long-term outcome of the patient.
- The methodology, especially diagnostic criteria and management protocols, is somewhat described but lacks detailed justification or adherence to standardized guidelines.
- The manuscript contains numerous grammatical, typographical, and formatting issues that impede clarity.
- Figures and tables are minimal; only one figure depicting a mitral valve vegetation is included, and figure legend is sparse.
- The references are somewhat outdated, and no recent guidelines or large studies are cited for management standards.

#### Reviewer Comments:

- **Title and Abstract:** The title is concise but could specify that this is a case report, e.g., "A Case Report of Fever with Diagnostic Dilemma in Infective Endocarditis." The abstract is missing or not clearly delineated. Including a structured abstract summarizing background, case details, investigations, treatment, and conclusion would improve clarity.

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- **Introduction and Objectives:** The introduction provides a good overview of infective endocarditis, especially its relevance in developing countries. However, the objectives or rationale of the case report should be explicitly stated at the end of the introduction for clarity.
- **Methodology and Statistical Analysis:** As a case report, formal statistical analysis is not applicable. However, the diagnostic process, laboratory investigations, and management protocols should be described in greater detail, including the criteria used for diagnosis and decision-making.
- **Results and Discussion:** The clinical presentation is well-detailed. However, the discussion should compare the case with similar reports and elaborate on the significance of negative blood cultures, including possible causative organisms and diagnostic challenges. The discussion appropriately highlights regional differences but lacks emphasis on the implications for practice. The imaging findings are described but could benefit from clearer illustrations and more detailed interpretation.
- **Conclusion and Implications:** The conclusion emphasizes early diagnosis and appropriate management but should explicitly state the lessons learned from this case and how it can influence clinical practice.
- **Ethical Clearance:** The manuscript does not mention institutional ethical approval or patient consent, which are essential for case reports. Clarification on this point is necessary.
- **Language and Presentation:** The manuscript contains multiple grammatical errors and inconsistent language, which affect readability. Editing for clarity, grammar, and coherence is strongly recommended. The formatting of references is inconsistent; some references list only authors without journal details.
- **Figures, Tables, and References:** The provided figure is helpful but lacks detailed caption. Additional images, such as transesophageal echocardiography, would enhance understanding. References are adequate but somewhat outdated; incorporating recent guidelines and studies would strengthen the manuscript.

**Additional Note:** Based on the review of the content provided and standard practices for scholarly publications, there are no indications or evidence within the text suggesting that this particular study has been previously published on the internet or elsewhere. To conclusively verify whether this work has been previously published, a dedicated plagiarism check or database search (e.g., PubMed, Google Scholar, or institutional repositories) would be necessary.