

Peer Review File

Article information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/ajo-21-50>

Reviewer A:**Comments:**

A table to compare with other cases of the same may be helpful to compare and contrast the various case reports

Reply: Thank you for the suggestion to incorporate a table outlining the previous case reports. We have attached a Table as a separate document (Table1: Comparison of paediatric nontuberculous mycobacterium infections in Australia and New Zealand from 1989 to 2022). Referenced on Page 6 Line 5 of main text.

Reviewer B:**Comments:**

This paper describes a case of nontuberculous mycobacterium lymphadenitis (NTML) caused by a rare variant previously not described in Australia, *M. Simiae*. It describes the common difficulty of diagnosis due to the difficulty culturing these organisms but presents a typical presentation.

The typical presentation of NTML should raise this diagnosis for the clinician. Surgical excision is recognized as the gold standard with antimicrobial treatment generally carrying poor response and requiring long treatment times. Curettage offers a less invasive approach and in some case series has shown resolution of infection.

The natural history of this pathology is poorly understood with fistulation and discharge being common. Cases of spontaneous resolution have been reported.

This paper presents a similar case history and discussion to that presented by reference 3. In order to offer a unique case report I would suggest the authors incorporate further discussion of paediatric atypical mycobacterium infections specifically from within Australia and NZ.

The following articles may be of use.

Freeman J, Morris A, Blackmore T, Hammer D, Munroe S, McKnight L. Incidence of nontuberculous mycobacterial disease in New Zealand, 2004. *The New Zealand Medical Journal* (Online). 2007 Jun 15;120(1256).

Zeharia A, Eidlitz-Markus T, Haimi-Cohen Y, Samra Z, Kaufman L, Amir J. Management of nontuberculous mycobacteria-induced cervical lymphadenitis with observation alone. *The Pediatric infectious disease journal*. 2008 Oct 1;27(10):920-2.

Blyth CC, Best EJ, Jones CA, Nourse C, Goldwater PN, Daley AJ, Burgner D, Henry G, Palasanthiran P. Nontuberculous mycobacterial infection in children: a prospective national study. *The Pediatric infectious disease journal*. 2009 Sep 1;28(9):801-5.

Reply: Thank you for your suggestion to incorporate further discussion around atypical presentations of NTM in Australia. As mentioned in the papers you have recommended, there are few presentations overall in Australia meaning there is little data. However, we have inserted further detail about atypical presentations on page 5 line 30 to page 6 line 3.