**Nocardia Identification at the Genus Level**

To the Editor:

Takashima et al recently published their report on purulent pericarditis accompanying pericardial abscess induced by *Nocardia* in an immunocompromised patient.1 The genus *Nocardia* that causes nocardiosis in human and animals is gram-positive and partially acid-fast. This bacterium was first reported by Edmond Nocard in 1888. Accurate identification at the genus level includes: colonial morphology, various stainings such as Gram stain, acid-fast and partially acid-fast, investigation of aerial hyphae with stereomicroscope, growth in lysozyme broth and molecular methods such as PCR-sequencing and PCR-RFLP. Furthermore, treatment of nocardial infections depends on the species.2–7

We request the authors attend to the following questions.
1. Please explain the *Nocardia* isolation method, which was not mentioned in the report.
2. Other genera in the Actinomycetes family, such as non-*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Gordonia* etc., are similar to *Nocardia* in some phenotypic characteristics. Please explain how *Nocardia* was identified at the genus level.

**References**


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