Reply to Banderet-Uglioni et al

TO THE EDITOR—We thank Banderet-Uglioni and colleagues for their comments, which support the contention in our article that, in the absence of definitive data such as from randomized trials, we will have to draw conclusions about these rare but serious diseases from well-conducted observational studies [1, 2]. In observational studies, the limitations of power related to the number of cases, and the inability to measure and/or include in the analysis all factors that might influence the outcome, make it difficult to draw causal inferences. This is what happened in our study, and we made it clear that we did not want to risk overinterpretation of our data by attempting to control for too many of these factors. We are unclear about which treatment recommendations the authors may have had issues with, because the treatment modalities supported, particularly clindamycin, are currently widely recommended in these infections. We disagree that a 2000-fold increase in risk for disease among household contacts does not support, as...
we stated in our abstract, “a potential role for antibiotic prophylaxis.” We think it does, and the authors have not provided an argument as to why it doesn’t.

Note

Potential conflicts of interest. All authors: No potential conflicts of interest.
All authors have submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest. Conflicts that the editors consider relevant to the content of the manuscript have been disclosed.

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