Reviewer's report

Title: Molecular characterization of Histoplasma capsulatum isolated from an outbreak in treasure hunters

Version: 2 Date: 11 December 2009

Reviewer: Harish Gugnani

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

Abstract

Methods

The first sentence “Six patients were admitted to the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases (INER) in Mexico City who presented severe respiratory symptoms suggestive of histoplasmosis” should be modified as “Six patients admitted to the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases (INER) in Mexico City presented severe respiratory symptoms suggestive of histoplasmosis”. Further by mentioning Mycobiotic agar, the authors are probably referring to what is mentioned under the Isolation and identification of H. capsulatum under the broad section of Methods. It should be so indicated in methods under Abstract.

The authors should be uniform in mentioning “Mycobiotic agar” or “Sabouraud dextrose-agar (SDA) with antibiotics (chloramphenicol, 50 mg/L and cycloheximide, 500 mg/L)”

Main text

Materials and Methods (page 9)

The title of the second section “Isolation and identification of H. capsulatum” needs to modified as “Isolation and identification of H. capsulatum and detection of anti-H. capsulatum antibodies” since it is included there in.

Results (page 10)

The title of the second section “Isolation and identification of H. capsulatum” should be modified (as already suggested) under Abstract to Isolation and identification of H. capsulatum and detection of anti-H. capsulatum antibodies.

Table 1

The hyphens in the words “Dissem-inated” and “histo-plasmosis” should be deleted.

Minor essential revisions

Abstract:

Background (page 3)
3rd line-Add the word “the before “two”

Background (page5)

2nd paragraph, 2nd line-last nut one word “template” should be changed to “temperate” (I think this is what the authors meant).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.