Author's response to reviews

Title: Leukocyte distribution and cytokine expression pattern in the spleen of a patient with visceral leishmaniasis resistant to treatment

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Dear Dr. Harris,

Please find enclosed the manuscript entitled “Leukocyte distribution and cytokine expression pattern in the spleen of a patient with visceral leishmaniasis resistant to treatment” which we would like to submit for consideration as a case report.

In this paper we comparatively study the leukocyte populations and pattern of cytokine producing cells in the spleen of a patient with visceral leishmaniasis non-responsive to clinical treatment and of two patients that undergone splenectomy due to splenic trauma during a car accident and in the course of a surgery for removal of a benign intra-abdominal neoplasia. The patient with visceral leishmaniasis had received all current clinical treatment for the disease without success. Therapeutic splenectomy was then performed, with recover of the patient from the disease. The main contributions of this study are:

1) This represents the first attempt to describe the distribution of leukocyte populations and cytokine-producing cells in the splenic compartments of a patient with visceral leishmaniasis.;

2) It gives support to the role of IL-17 in the protection against the disease;

3) It present data suggesting that FoxP3 producing cells are in fact involved in the maintenance of chronic visceral leishmaniasis;

4) It confirms previous data by Nylen and colleagues (2007) on the changes in CD4/CD8 ratio in the spleen of patients with visceral leishmaniasis.

This manuscript, or parts of it, are not been and will not be submitted elsewhere for publication.
All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration and stand ready to answer any questions or provide further clarification as needed.

Sincerely yours,

Washington LC dos-Santos