Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5  Date: 30 June 2014

Reviewer: Susanne O Nylen

Reviewer's report:

There are very few descriptions of VL spleen from humans and as such this case report has merits. The authors have made a very good description of the spleens.

However, the finding must be presented as a case report and the authors must refrain from drawing conclusion and making statistical comparisons that cannot be made.

Major compulsory revision:

The figures showing graphs are misleading. The statistical comparisons indicating that there is a difference cannot be made comparing one patient with another. What do these P-values mean?

To claim that IL-17 and FoxP3 play a role in VL base on these results is an overstatement. The findings should be presented as observations and discussed as such.

As an example: FoxP3 staining was observed in the PALS of VL spleen, but not detected in any of the control spleens. Previous reports have shown……

Further the authors should include pictures of the normal spleens so that pathology is visualized for the reader.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests'