Reviewer's report

Title: Visceral Leishmaniasis owing to Leishmania infantum (L. chagasi) in a patient residing in Argentina. What is the origin of the infection?; Case Report.

Version: 1 Date: 23 April 2004

Reviewer: Luigi Gradoni

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well described case report which fits the journal requirements for case or series of cases descriptions, presenting an important diagnostic challenge. Of particular value is the updated leishmaniasis situation in Argentina.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Page 1, Title: apart for the wrong use of the Spanish question mark, the title does not reflect the authors' conclusion, i.e. that the patient was most probably infected in Spain. I would suggest to delete the sentence "What is the.." and propose the new title as: "Visceral leishmaniasis caused by Leishmania infantum/L.chagasi in a Spanish patient residing in Argentina. Case report".

Page 5, lines 16-17: correct as "...(i.e. cutaneous, cutaneomucosal and mucosal leishmaniasis) owing..."

Page 7, line 16: Figure 1 does not show that L.infantum isolates are from southern Spain (see comments below)

Page 7, last sentence: This sentence is misleading and should be deleted; there is no evidence that asymptomatic HIV-negative non-IVDU individuals "act as reservoirs for the parasite"

Table 1: the table is not self-explanatory at all (usually a table is produced to provide more details than the related Figure); here, isolate numbers are not explained. In my opinion it should be eliminated because the same information is given in Figure 1.

Figure 1: in legend, details should be given on the geographical origin of the strains (see comment above) and on the significance of numbers shown into the dendrogram. Furthermore, it is suggested to mark the index strain for visual clarity (e.g. an asterisk with explanation in legend)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Page 5, lines 20-22: suggested as "owing to: i) the absence of...; ii) geographical...; iii) simultaneous...; and iv) lack of..."

Page 6, line 12: since this sentence was detailed in the Case Presentation section, I would suggest
to summarize as "...the presence of intracellular parasites."

Page 7, line 4: "...during summer..."

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None