Reviewer's report

Title: Echinococcal disease in Alberta, Canada: more than a calcified opacity

Version: 1 Date: 3 March 2005

Reviewer: Peter Schantz

Reviewer's report:

General

Current practice in nomenclature of echinococcosis is to refer to the infection by E. granulous as cystic echinococcosis (CE) or cystic hydatid disease (vs. alveolar echinococcosis or hydatid disease caused by E multilocularis).

Please clarify what is meant by "two patients...were treated conservatively" (p7, last paragraph). Does that mean that they received no treatment?

In the discussion (p.9, 2nd paragraph) the authors discuss the relative frequency of hepatic vs. pulmonary localizations. They may wish to discuss the effect that hepatic imaging may have on detection of hepatic cysts and the effect that this may have on relative frequency of different organ localization of diagnosed cases (when the cited references were published most asymptomatic cases were detected by chest radiograph often incidental to TB screening!)

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

None

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

see above

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests