Reviewer's report

Title: Leishmania infantum leishmaniasis in corticosteroid - treated patients.

Version: 1 Date: 17 April 2006

Reviewer: Hiro Goto

Reviewer's report:

General

Case reports of unusual forms of leishmaniasis in immunocompromised patients are important for physicians for diagnosis and appropriate specific treatment. Therefore, the cases merit to be published after revisions.

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

a) The definition of the species of Leishmania was supposedly based on PCR using primers described in reference 3. However, PCR using these primers do not allow to define the species, unless PCR products had been submitted to sequencing. This point has to be clarified, and if sequencing was not carried out or if any other method was used to identify the species, the title of the article should be modified removing Leishmania infantum from. However, even though the definition of the species is interesting, it does not enable the publication of these observations.

b) In the discussion, the endemicity of leishmaniasis of the areas where the patients were coming from should be mentioned for foreigners. Further this aspect should be stressed in the discussion to include leishmaniasis in the differential diagnosis of patients presenting tegumentary lesions or some manifestations suggestive of visceral leishmaniasis when coming from endemic areas for leishmaniasis.

c) In the discussion, an overview of clinical manifestations and laboratory findings would be desirable, not only the discussion of manifestations of each case. Mainly it would be desirable to analyze if some parameters would be of importance to suggest diagnosis of leishmaniasis.

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

a) Table. The table is not numbered. We suggest to standardize the format of the numbers (decimals) and where it is stated ‘normal’ to write the values.

b) We suggest to substitute the references 5 and 6 for those focused on immune response in human leishmaniasis.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions.
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.