Reviewer's report

Title: Primary muscular cystic hydatidosis: case report

Version: 1 Date: 16 October 2006

Reviewer: Enrico Brunetti

Reviewer's report:

General
The case is interesting, but some sections are confusing and the authors cannot support their claim that a diagnosis was reached only by means of molecular biology. Someone fully cognizant of English or a native speaker should rewrite several sections of the text in order to improve grammar and style. Many sentences deserve a new paragraph. Having whole sections written in one paragraph is not helpful to the reader.

Abstract:
Case presentation, line 6: “Serological tests for hydatidosis gave negative results” is at odds with “Serological tests gave positive results for hydatidosis” 6 lines down.

Background:
Line 24: It is debatable that most cysts are univesicular. This is not the case in referral centers or what can be learned from mass ultrasound screening in endemic areas.

Case report
Images from histological specimens would be helpful to the reader. Absence of protoscolices in a cyst with such MRI appearance does not rule out CE. Cysts may well be sterile. Further, why was Western Blot assay not performed when the first blood sample tested negative with imaging techniques highly suggestive of CE? This should be the rule as false negatives at routine tests (ELISA, IHA) are often seen, especially in extra-hepatic locations.

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

I doubt that definitive diagnosis could be achieved only by molecular diagnosis. This was surely helpful and strain differentiation has epidemiological value and is increasingly being performed, but the diagnosis here was made by means of imaging, pathology and Western Blot.

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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)

The entire paper should be edited by a native speaker of English

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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 whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No

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