Author's response to reviews

Title: Resistance of Leishmania (Leishmania) amazonensis and Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis to nitric oxide correlates with Tegumentary Leishmaniasis disease state

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Author's response to reviews:

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Dear Editor,

Please follow attached the revised version-2 of our manuscript with the changes made in response to the questions raised by one of the reviewer. We believe that the changes in the revised manuscript adequately address the issues raised by the reviewers. Specific responses to their queries are included below, as well as the location of changes in the revised manuscript. The changes are in bold font in the revised manuscript.

Comments are addressed point-by-point. For ease of response, we have numbered each Reviewer's comments. We thank the reviewers for their comments and we think the changes have significantly improved the manuscript.

Reviewer's report:

General
1. I have reviewed the new version of the manuscript. The authors have answered all the points raised in my previous review and I believe the manuscript is clearer now. However, reading this new version, I thought of still another question that needs to be clarified in the final version. Figure 3 shows that the average lesion size for resistant isolates (n=4) is larger than for susceptible isolates (n=10). I think it would be important to know what is the distribution of species in these 14 patients. An even distribution of L. amazonensis and L. braziliensis in both groups (resistant and susceptible) would eliminate the possibility of relating the size of lesion to the causative species.

Dear Reviewer,

Thanks for your attention and comments.
Among the 10 NO susceptible isolates, 8 are L. braziliensis and 2 are L. amazonensis, and among the 4 NO resistant isolates 3 are L. amazonensis and 1 is L. braziliensis. The lesion size is bigger when we compare NO resistant L. amazonensis or L. braziliensis with NO susceptible L. amazonensis or L. braziliensis, separately. It seems that the Leishmania species are not interfering the lesion size, but the NO resistance phenotype. We now added this information to the legend of figure 3.
2. Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Tables 2 and 3 list the values of thymidine incorporation or MTT for each isolate. On each particular table, calculations for the mean and SD are included. Since the data for each isolate cultivated without drug presents a great deal of variation, the comparison of absolute values does not seem very meaningful. The graphs presented on Fig. 1, on the other hand, use adequately the percentages of survival of treated cultures in relation to the untreated control parasites. I suggest removing from Tables 2 and 3 the data for the mean and SD.

We removed the mean and SD from tables 2 and 3.

Sincerely yours,

Roque Almeida