Reviewer’s report

Title: Association Between Amebic Liver Abscess and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection in Taiwanese subjects

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2008

Reviewer: Cecilia Ximenez

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions.

The manuscript deals with the association between invasive amoebiasis disease and the HIV+ viral infection, as in other reports of this research group, the results seems to be suggestive of an association between the HIV+ infection condition and the susceptibility to develop amoebic liver abscess.

What explanation the authors can remark for the significant number of Amoebic liver abscess patients also infected by HIV in their community.

On the other hand, the small number of amoebic liver abscess patients included in this study may be an important bias to reach to a reliable conclusion: HIV infection makes patients more susceptible to E. histolytica invasive infection or this particular analyzed population of HIV infected individuals are exposed to particular E. histolytica strains different to the strains to which non- HIV infected population are exposed?.

Analysis of data shown only very few differences that are statistically significant between groups (HIV- and HIV+).

In my opinion it could be useful for the discussion to include some consideration related with publish reports on HIV+ patients with or without E.histolytica infection who do not develop invasive disease, this may be interesting.

The article can be publish after include some comments to my queries.

Sincerely yours
Dr. Cecilia Ximenez

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests bellow
Dr Cecilia Ximenez