Author's response to reviews

Title: Cryptic Leishmania infantum infection in Italian HIV infected patients

Authors:

Claudia Colomba (claudia.colomba@libero.it)
Laura Saporito (laura.sapo@tin.it)
Fabrizio Vitale (fstefano.reale@izssicilia.it)
Stefano Reale (stefano.reale@izssicilia.it)
Giustina Vitale (vitale@unipa.it)
Alessandra Casuccio (casuccio@unipa.it)
Manlio Tolomeo (manliotolomeo@hotmail.com)
Daniela Maranto (dany.maranto@libero.it)
Raffaella Rubino (raffaellarubino@libero.it)
Paola Di Carlo (dicarlo19@libero.it)
Lucina Titone (titonel@unipa.it)

Version: 4 Date: 12 February 2009

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sir,

Please find herewith included the revised version of the manuscript entitled: Cryptic Leishmania infantum infection in Italian HIV infected patients.

All the comments of the two reviewers have been taken into due consideration and the text has been corrected accordingly.

Regarding the specific comments of the reviewer #1:

1. The PCR detection limit has been corrected to 0.01 parasites/ml. Because of reproducibility of the PCR Leishmania test was 100% at the LOQ level of 0.1 parasites/ml, only specimens with a parasite charge of 0.1 parasites/ml were considered to be positive and this value has been corrected in the manuscript and the figures.

2. The information regarding the statistical study have been completed. Results of both uni- and multivariate analysis have been displayed in table 2. Confidence intervals have been corrected.

Minor essential revisions:
- IFI have been changed to IFAT
- Microlitre symbols have been checked
- The duplicate sentence has been deleted.
Regarding the specific comments of the reviewer #2:

1. Results have been confirmed after considering specimens with 0.1 parasites/ml to be positive. Results have been compared with those of VL HIV patients and non-HIV asymptomatic carriers. Also the importance of the control of the patients with higher parasitemia has been discussed.

2. Threshold for positive samples has been set to 0.1 parasites/ml and the number of positive samples did not change. Different prevalence of the asymptomatic leishmaniasis in our endemic area has been discussed.

3. “Oral” was removed.

4. Lysis mix was described.

5. The duplicate sentence has been deleted.

6. Figures have been corrected. In Figure 2 there are 20 dots because of the overlapping of some data. Labels have been included near the dots corresponding to different patients.

7. Confidence intervals have been corrected.

The other authors and I thank you and the reviewers for the attention given to the manuscript.

I hope to have given exhaustive responses and I look forward to your decision.

Regards,

Claudia Colomba

Dipartimento di Scienze per la Promozione della Salute, Sezione di Malattie Infettive

Università di Palermo

Via del Vespro 129, 90127 Palermo, Italy

claudia.colomba@libero.it

tel. +39 91 6554054 fax +39 91 6554050