Reviewer's report

Title: Subarachnoidal Neurocysticercosis non-responsive to cysticidal drugs: a case series.

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Reviewer: Arturo Carpio

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Studies to analyze subarachnoidal neurocysticercosis treatment are highly recommendable; however, it is also very difficult to organize a clinical trial on subarachnoidal NC. The discussion regarding possible factors involved in the failure of NC treatment is interesting.

The following are some suggestions that authors may take into account:

On the abstract and introduction sections, the authors mention that “cysticidal drugs are very efficient when parasites are localized in the parenchyma” This assumption is imprecise. In the meta-analysis reported by Del Brutto et al (reference 3), the journal editors concluded that “These studies (selected in the meta-analysis) provide limited evidence of a modest effect of drug treatment in patients with (parenchymal) neurocysticercosis”. Additionally, recent double blind, placebo controlled, clinical trials about NC treatment (Garcia H, et al. N Engl J Med 2004; 350:249-58, and Carpio A, et al J Neurol Neurosurg and Psychiatry 2008;79:1050-5) have reported that albendazol leads to the disappearance of parenchymal cysts (the only reliable outcome) in about one third of patients. These results are probably not satisfying.

The authors mention bibliographic references regarding cysticidal subarachnoidal NC treatment usefulness only, but there are also reports about treatment failure on this NC form (Carpio A, et al J Neurol Neurosurg and Psychiatry 2008;79:1050-5).

It would be advisable the authors mention about the limitations of case-series reports, in the sense that these designs studies do not allow to generalize their results to the population.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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