Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Case of Fungal Keratitis And Onychomycosis Simultaneously Infected By Trichophyton Species

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Version: 3 Date: 12 June 2014

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript, entitled “A Case of Fungal Keratitis And Onychomycosis Simultaneously Infected By Trichophyton Species” for consideration for publication in BMC ophthalmology.

A point by point response to the reviewers’ comments/requests and a detailed description of changes made to the manuscript in accordance with the Editorial Board Member’s recommendations is included below. We thank the reviewers for their constructive and supportive comments.

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Reviewer 1

“His eye symptoms had started 3 weeks ago spontaneously. He had been treated with topical fortified 5% cefazolin and 2% tobramycin alternately 4 times a day, but symptoms had not improved after treatment”. How long about this treatment time “for 4 days” was added. The sentence was changed to “He had been treated with topical fortified 5% cefazolin and 2% tobramycin alternately 4 times a day for 4 days.” (page 3, line 20)

“We inspected the patient’s body for other fungal skin infection, and found onychomycosis on the patient’s foot.” Please show pictures of patient’s foot. We did not take the picture of his foot at the presentation time. Recently, his onychomycosis on the patient’s foot has been completely treated.

“In spite of the treatment, no clinical improvement was observed for 4 days and corneal infiltrate was worsened.” Please show pictures of the worsened corneal infiltrate. We added Figure 1B.

“Four days after the penetrating keratoplasty, the corneal graft was clear with moderate cellular inflammation reaction in the anterior chamber.” Please show pictures. We added Figure 3A.

The graft was clear with no anterior chamber cellular reaction at postoperative 1 month. Please show pictures. We added Figure 3B.
Reviewer 2

Minor essential revisions

This is indeed an interesting case and perhaps the first to be reported.

1. The Trichophyton species like T. rubrum or T. mentagrophyte is not mentioned in the paper. Whether the typing was done?

   “Trichophyton species have dozens subtypes although T. rubrum and T. mentagrophytes are common pathogens of onychomycosis [10]. In this case, the type of Trichophyton species was not identified.” was added in Discussion. (page 5, line 16-18)

2. Medium used for fungal culture should have been mentioned.

   “Fungal hyphae were observed in KOH-stained corneal specimen stained on microscopic examination. Fungal culture on Sabouraud dextrose agar identified Trichophyton species after 7 days of incubation.” was added. (page 4, line 6-8)

3. Simultaneous occurrence of fungal keratitis and onychomycosis has been reported earlier by Ritterband et al (Cornea 1998; 17:115-118) although the incriminating agent was Cryptococcus laurentii. This fact should be incorporated.

   It was incorporated. “A case of simultaneous infection of fungal keratitis and onychomycosis by cryptococcus laurentii has been reported and the spread of cryptococcus laurentii from onychomycosis has been suggested [11].” Was added in Conclusions (page 5, line 11-13)

   Reference 11 was added.

4. In conclusions, second paragraph; references should come after Shenoy R et al and Mohammed et al instead of them at the end of the sentence. Further, Shenoy R et al should be written as Shenoy et al.
5. In figure legends, figure 2; instead of writing black within brackets please write the magnification.

It was corrected as recommended. We added “magnification x 40”.

6. Grammatical and spelling errors to be corrected are:

It was corrected as recommended.

i) In abstract, background; fungal keratitis is so difficult to treat that can result in corneal blindness-----should be written as fungal keratitis is difficult to treat and can result in corneal blindness----.

It was corrected as recommended in abstract.

ii) In background, first paragraph; the most common pathogens of fungal keratitis are------, although prevalent species is different from geographical areas of the world. Trichophyton is a widely distributed species. Reframe it as, the most common pathogens of fungal keratitis are---, although the prevalent species differ in different geographical areas of the world.

Trichophyton is a widely distributed species.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 3, line 7)

iii) In background, first paragraph (last line); onlychomycosis should be spelled as onychomycosis.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 3, line 14)

iv) In case report, second paragraph; fungal hyphae were observed in corneal specimen
stained on microscopic examination. Rewrite as, fungal hyphae were observed in (mention name of the stain) stained corneal specimen on microscopic examination.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 4, line 6)

v) In case report, second paragraph (second line); write fungal culture instead of fungus culture.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 4, line 7)

vi) In case report, second paragraph; the patients had suffered from foot onychomycosis for 10 years. Write it as; the patient had suffered from foot onychomycosis for 10 years.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 4, line 9)

vii) In case report, second paragraph; the corneal infiltrate was worsened should be written as the corneal infiltrate worsened.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 4, line 14)

viii) In case report, third paragraph; write moderate cellular inflammatory reaction instead of moderate cellular inflammation reaction.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 4, line 21)

ix) In conclusions, first paragraph (first line); fungal keratitis is difficult to diagnose and to treat. Please delete the second to.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 5, line 2)

x) In conclusions, first paragraph (third last line); onychomysis should be spelled as
onychomycosis.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 5, line 9)

xi) In authors’ contributions; KWJ and YJS was responsible should be replaced with KWJ and YJS were responsible.

It was corrected as recommended. (page 6, line 16)

xii) In references, reference number 5; 1974 within parenthesis should be deleted.

It was corrected as recommended.