Reviewer's report

Title: A Needle In the Liver- A rare cause of recurrent liver abscess

Authors:
Chintamani CHINTAMANI Chintamani (chintamani7@rediffmail.com)
Vinay VINAY Singhal (chintamani@doctor.com)
Parminder PARMINDER Lubhana (chintamani@doctor.com)
Rakesh RAKESH Durkhere (chintamani@doctor.com)
Shabnam SHABNAM Bhandari (chintamani@doctor.com)

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Reviewer: chi-hsun H Hsieh

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

The authors reported a foreign body (possibly incidentally ingested) in the liver which resulted in recurrent liver abscess and finally cured by drainage of the abscess and removal of the foreign body via laparotomy.

The following are some comments and questions coming from the reviewer:
1. According to the presented patient history, the patient was referred to the authors' hospital from a remote district hospital because of repeated episodes of fever and abdominal pain for a year. The symptoms and signs of the patient were typical of some kind of intra-abdominal infections and these were an indication for further evaluation. Although the exact location and size of the liver abscess can only be confirmed after delicate exams, a basic plain abdomen film was essential and also reasonable for such patient and would lead to early diagnosis and early referral. Since the patient was treated with antibiotics for a year in the district hospital, what was the initial impression of the primary doctor for this patient before referral? What tests were taken for this patient in that remote hospital?
2. The location of the liver abscess (according to the image of the abdominal CT provided by the authors) was most likely in segment 4 but not in segment 6 (according to the Couinaud's nomenclature of the segments of the liver), which means that the abscess was located in the left lobe of the liver (which is most commonly seen), but not in the right lobe. The authors should provide another image supporting their operative findings that the abscess was located at posterior inferior segment of the right lobe of the liver.
3. The list of references was not correlated to that indicated in the article. It indicated that there were 16 references in the discussion section, however, there were only 7 references listed.
4. As the author stated, there were another 12 similar cases already reported in the literature (embedded foreign body in the liver). Why was this case unique and needed to be reported and discussed? Was the diagnosis, treatment and outcome of the patient different from those being reported?
5. The reviewer suggest to summarize all the reported cases (including the current case) in a table, in order to show the differences among the cases.
6. The final sentence of the article stated that "laparoscopic surgery is beneficial and may be employed if the foreign body is extrahepatic". Please give references that support the above comment. For what reason does laparoscopic surgery superior to laparotomy for treatment of liver
abscess?

**Competing interests:**

None declared.