Reviewer’s report

Title: Diagnostic problems between parasitic and non-parasitic splenic cysts

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2009

Reviewer: Alexandra Tsaroucha

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript is an interesting article on splenic echinococcal cysts coming from an endemic area where there is experience.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes
3. Are the data sound? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? See comments
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? See comments
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? See comments
9. Is the writing acceptable? See comments

Major Revisions

The author have to address the following comments:

1. The Abstract should be corrected. It is not mentioned the number of the patients included in the study, the age of the patients etc. Also the results section of the abstract should be rewritten.

2. Page 2: The following sentence: “24 patients with splenic cyst have undergone surgery in our department in the last 9 years,. 18 out of 24 patients’ data collected prospectively and the rest 6 patients’ retrospectively were assessed in terms of age, gender, hospital stay, preoperative diagnose, additional disease, serology, ultrasonography, computed tomography(CT), cyst recurrences and treatment.” Should be rewritten. It is very hard to understand what is going on.
3. Page 2: “Results. “In our series,…” should be changed to “in this study…”
6. Page 3. Line 26: Please provide all needed information on the preoperative and postoperative conservative therapy with mebendazole, i.e. duration, etc.
7. Page 4. Line 1: Please clarify the number of patients in each groups.
8. Page 4. Line 5: The mean age should be moved in the patients and methods section.
11. Is the partial splenectomy another alternative therapy for the echinococcal splenic cyst, especially for young people? Is this also a therapy for non-parasitic splenic cyst? Please include recent papers and provide detailed discussion (see for example, Szczepanik AB, World J Surg 2009, Partial splenectomy in the management of nonparasitic splenic cysts).
12. Emphasize on new findings of the study and impact on clinical practice.
13. Correct syntax and grammar errors throughout. In general, English needs major treatment. Please have a professional to check the paper before resubmitting.