Author's response to reviews

Title: Histopathological Evaluation OF Ocular Microsporidiosis by Different Stains

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Sub: MS: 6421603369057585 – Histopathological Evaluation OF Ocular Microsporidiosis by different stains

Dear Editor,

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in your esteemed journal. I am herewith submitting the revised manuscript entitled "Histopathological Evaluation OF Ocular Microsporidiosis by different stains" for publication in your journal. Hoping for a favorable and prompt acknowledgment of the same. We have changed the abstract and references style to the journal’s format. The changes incorporated according to the reviewer’s comments are:

Comment :There are two word mistakes, page 4 end of line 9 should be "with" and page 11 third line, I think you mean to not have included the word "other".

Reply: we agree with the reviewer and have changed the two word mistakes.

Comment: There is still a problem with the figures. There is confusion in the text about the "waist band", which by definition is central and not polar, the authors should be consistent with their terminology and what actually can be seen. The central band, not the polar staining structure (could be the nucleus in some cases), which is very common in the figures, is best seen in figure 4a.

Reply: we apologise for the confusion and have changed the text to use the terminology waistband everywhere.
Comment: Although the authors describe the spores as being brown in the text and black (as they should be) in legend of figure 2d, they are actually red in the figure.

Reply: We agree that the color are seen differently after photo editing. We have included the original pictures for clarity. The error in the legend has also been rectified.

Comment: Classically the PAS stain is used to bring out the "polar granule", it is not seen very well, or at all, with other stains.

Reply: Yes we agree with the reviewers that PAS shows a dot like polar granules, not seen in other stains, which highlight the waist band. We have also added this comment in the Discussion of our manuscript.

Comment: The references are a problem, they are not primary and are occasionally wrong. An example of a mistake is reference 7, which does not describe the "first case of ocular microsporidiosis" (no matter whether historical or more recently in HIV/AIDS).

Reply: We regret this error. The reference has been changed to reflect the first case of ocular microsporidiosis.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore):

Comment: Even though there are "increasing reports of microsporidiosis in India", you only have 4 cases out of "2655 cases that underwent penetrating keratoplasty". You only mention polarizing the H&E stained section, when actually polarization is even better (especially useful with the smaller spores) with the GMS and Gram stains.

It would be very interesting to know the species!

1. Reply: In addition to these 4 cases, we have also reported the largest case series in the world on microsporidial epithelial keratoconjunctivitis that were diagnosed on corneal scrapings (Joseph J et al. Clinical and Microbiological Profile of
Microsporidial Keratoconjunctivitis in Southern India. *Ophthalmology* 2006; 113(4): 531-7). Though the clinical features differ, the entity causing the disease essentially remains the same, and this study will help identify these organisms in those cases as well. We have also added this point in our Discussion. Our ongoing study will allow us to comment further on the species involved.

Thanking you
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