Author's response to reviews

Title: Whole Body Bone Scintigram Appearance in Osseous Hydatosis; a case report and Review of the Literature

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editorial team

Your e-mail received. Thank you for the precise analysis of the manuscript. Some revisions according to the comments of reviewers was performed and as you asked, detailed description of changes made and responses to comments of reviewers, is enclosed point by point:

♦ Response to comments of the first reviewer (Dr David Gary Smith):

1. (More discussion about the sensitivity and specificity of whole body scans in the diagnosis of echinococcosis. Thanks for the comment and this paragraph was added in the conclusions) (Whole body bone scan (WBBS) is able to show the extent and distribution of lesions. WBBS has a high sensitivity but has a poor specificity for osteopathlogic lesions).

2. (Extensive editing for english language journal.) changes were made.

♦ Response to the comments of the Second reviewer (Dr Michael Rosenblum)
1. (General: This is an interesting case presentation of an unusual disease process. The radiographs and bone scan are illustrative of the severity of this disease. The case presentation needs to be fine tuned (standardized) for content and flow. The use of charts/maps/tables for worldwide prevalence and areas of physical involvement can clarify these aspects of the document for the reader. Hydatid bone disease should be considered as an important component in the differential for abnormal bone scans in patients who are from endemic areas).

Thank you very much for your comments and added some paragraphs and also a figure as following:

A: *(Echinococcus granulosus has a world-wide geographic range and occurs in all continents including circumpolar, temperate, subtropical and tropical zones (1). The highest prevalence of the parasite is found in parts of Eurasia, Africa, Australia and South America (Fig. 1). Within the endemic zones, the prevalence of the parasite varies from sporadic to high, but only a few countries can be regarded as being free of E. granulosus (Fig. 1)* added in Background part.

B: *Immunodiagnostic procedures for serum antibody detection such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (IgG-ELISA), the indirect hemagglutination antibody test (IHAT), and the latex agglutination test (LAT), the immunofluorescence antibody test (IFAT), immunoelectrophoresis (IEP) and some other tests are used for the etiological confirmation of imaging structures suggestive for cystic*
echinococcosis or for diagnosis or differential diagnosis in cases of uncharacteristic imaging findings (13). **Added in the conclusions part.**

2. (Requires extensive editing for language and redundancy). **Changes were made.**

All authors read and approved the final manuscript. I shall be greatly obliged if you would kindly inform me of your proceedings.

*Sincerely yours,*

*Majid Assadi*