Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Hypercalcemia in a patient with disseminated Paracoccidioidomycosis (Case Report)

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 26 February 2008

**Reviewer:** Kieran M Tuohy

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

**Has the case been reported coherently?:** Yes

**Is the case report authentic?:** Yes

**Is this case worth reporting?:** Yes

**Is the case report persuasive?:** Yes

**Does the case report have explanatory value?:** Yes

**Does the case report have diagnostic value?:** Yes

**Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?:** Yes

**Is the anonymity of the patient protected?:** Yes

**Comments to authors:**

The authors present an interesting observation of the occurrence of hypercalcemia in a patient with mycosis caused by Paracoccidioides brasiliensis. Observations eluding to possibly novel virulence mechanisms or host:pathogen interactions in this common and important fungal pathogen are to be welcomed. This reviewer has a few minor comments listed below:

1. Use correct microbiological taxonomy throughout (put Paracoccidioides brasiliensis in italics)
2. How was vitamin D intoxication ruled out? (Was the concentration of 25(OH)2D measured?)
3. Comment on the occurrence of hypercalcemia in other mycoses (e.g. those caused by Coccidioides immitis and Cryptococcus neoformans). Is this a common observation and has it been linked to virulence or pathobiology of these infections previously? In this reviewer’s opinion, a short speculative statement on how elevated calcium levels could play a role in P. brasiliensis pathogenesis would add to the paper.
What next?: Accept after minor revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable