Author's response to reviews

Title: Human Diphyllobothriasis: A Report of Fish Tape Worm Infection in Teaching Hospital in Karimnagar, India

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer: MANUEL ENRIQUE ACOSTA MEZA

1. The images presented in the manuscript are not sufficient for correct identification of Diphyllobothrium latum. They do not help us clearly differentiate Diphyllobothrium latum.

**Ans:** Rightly said. We have taken the help of available literature and few pictures in various books and in the internet to finally confirm the parasite. With the size and shape of the eggs and presence of groups of eggs and the other clinical factors we could identify the parasite. Unfortunate that we have no molecular diagnostic method to confirm the parasite.

2. It is necessary a best image with the eggs. Mayor magnification would be helpful, to show the operculum. Please include the measurements of the eggs.

**Ans:** The pictures were taken with a 2 megapixel camera available with us. But we have indicated an arrow to show the inconspicuous operculum. Measurement of the eggs included in text.

3. I am also suggesting you to review your written English, which needs some corrections. Ask someone with English as a first language, to help you in this task, before you resubmit.

**Ans:** English of the text is further improved.

Reviewer (patricio torres)

1. The clinical case is presented with images are not sufficient for correct identification of Diphyllobothrium latum.

**Ans:** Rightly said. We have taken the help of available literature and few pictures in various books and in the internet to finally confirm the parasite. With the size and shape of the eggs and presence of groups of eggs and the other clinical factors we could identify the parasite. Unfortunate that we have no molecular diagnostic method to confirm the parasite.

2. One of the figures show many oval structures of yellow colour, similar to eggs of Diphyllobothrium sp.or Digenean tramatodes, but, I not see the operculum of this eggs.

**Ans:** An arrow is incorporated in the image to indicate the inconspicuous operculum(I would like to inform the reviewer that only once we were able to see the clear operculum but as the time passed and by the time we took pictures the eggs have slightly modified. These eggs develop outside in the environment and any delay in taking pictures will not show clear operculum.

3. Also, in the text is not indicated the size of the eggs. Other images are not clears and sufficient evidence for Diphyllobothrium latum.

**Ans:** The size of the egg is included in the text. The reason for unclear pictures is the availability of only 2 megapixel camera with us.
4. Taxonomy of Diphyllobothrium spp. is very complex. Morphological diagnosis require stained in toto slides of scolex and proglotids and histological sections for study the different characteristics in country where the life cycle of this parasites is known. Actually, in country where the first reports are known, morphology of adults aid in the identification to level of genus (Diphyllobothrium sp.). Posterior experimental study and description of life cycle and distinct stages of development (coracidia, procercoid, plerocercoids and adults) can concluded in the identification to level of species.

Ans: With agreement to reviewers point of view we have come up with this report having only sparse infrastructure to add to the available plenty of clinical material as with many other developing countries.

5. In Korea, D. latum was identified from 1919, but, the adequate morphological and molecular study concluded that only Diphyllobothrium nihonkaiense is present in that country (Jeon et al 2009).

Ans: Since it is only the third case report as found in the literature and the infrequency of the reports have not highlighted the significance of molecular diagnosis.

6. For this case it is necessary a best image with the eggs (major magnification), where the operculum is showed. Also, it is important the measurements of the eggs. With the eggs we could concluded the diagnostic of Diphyllobothrium sp. but not of D. latum.

Ans: The pictures were taken with a 2 megapixel camera available with us. But we have indicated an arrow to show the inconspicuous operculum. Measurement of the eggs included in text.


Ans: We have gone through the paper of Kuchta et al as well as another review co authored by Kuchta Clini. Microbiol. Rev. Scholz et al. 22 (1): 146. . The paper gives proposal to new orders which must be included in the new text books on parasitology. We are ready to include the same in text with the reference if required.