Author's response to reviews

Title: A Cluster of four Cases of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis by Leishmania donovani in Cyprus: a case report

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Version: 6
Date: 29 July 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
July 28th, 2014

To: Editor,
    Journal of Medical Case Reports

Re: Submission of the revised manuscript entitled “A Cluster of four Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Cases by Leishmania donovani in Cyprus”

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit our revised case report entitled “A Cluster of four Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Cases by Leishmania donovani in Cyprus” for your reconsideration.

We would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript based on the reviewers’ comments. We have made every effort to incorporate all comments and revisions suggested by the reviewers. As a result, we believe that our manuscript has been improved considerably.

Attached please find our revised manuscript for your review. The material presented is original and has not been submitted elsewhere. We do not consider our work redundant or a duplicate publication of the same or very similar work. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

If you have further questions or need additional information please feel free to contact me at +357 99 646929 or via e-mail to the address below.

Sincerely,

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Response to Reviewers’ Comments

First Reviewer's report

Title: A Cluster of four Cases of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis by Leishmania donovani in Cyprus: a case report
Version: 3 Date: 9 May 2014

Reviewer: Rhajaoui Mohamed

Comments to authors:
This is a good work. To make it more attractive and acceptable please follow the following points and unless you will not follow these instructions your paper will not be accepted.

1. Abstract didn’t mention the name of the area study (name of the district in case presentation part), please specify it.

R: We have included the study area (district) as suggested.

2. In the case presentation part, please write like:
   Case number 1:
   Case number 2:
   Case number 3:
   Case number 4:

R: Done so as suggested.

3. Please add the name of culture used for identification of L. donovani in the four cases reported.

R: Done so as suggested. Thank you.

4. The description about the first case in a child is more detailed than the remaining three cases, please you must add the symptom or the treatment of the disease among adult population like the first case (you mention if it is the same or different...).

R: Done so as suggested. Thank you.

5. The results of Culture and PCR for the case number 3 and case number 4, please add their results.

R: Unfortunately, for these two cases we did not have results on PCR or culture because no material was available for the tests to be performed. We have included an explanation in the text.

6. The last paragraph in “case presentation” is a repetition, you must delete.

R: Done so, as suggested.
7. Correct in the first paragraph in case presentation, if it’s 6 years or 7 years !!!!

R: Done so, sorry.

8. In the paragraph in discussion you have some repetition. Please write like “To our knowledge, this is the first cluster case of CL by L. donovani in a child reported in Europe” rather “To our knowledge, this is the first case of CL by L. donovani in a child and the first cluster of cases of CL by L. donovani reported in Europe”.

R: The repetition was corrected, thank you. However, the suggested change does not correspond to the situation described in the manuscript, since the cluster of cases is not of children but of one child and three adults. So the sentence was corrected to: “To our knowledge, this is the first case of CL by *L. donovani* in a child and the first cluster with adult cases of CL by *L. donovani* reported in Europe”

9. The section “conclusion” further need to elaborated (you remove the first paragraph in conclusion (Clustering of cases of CL or VL caused by anthroponotic species………..high-risk areas) and put it on the first part of discussion.

R: Done so, as suggested.

10. Please add in “our study” instead of “our case” in the conclusion

R: Done so as suggested.

**Second Reviewer's report**

Title: A Cluster of four Cases of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis by Leishmania donovani in Cyprus: a case report

Version: 3 Date: 9 May 2014

Reviewer: Diamantis P Kofteridis

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?
- Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease.
- Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes
- Is the case report authentic?: Yes
- Is the case report ethical?: Yes
- Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: 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?: No
- Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes
Comments to authors:
The present article is a well written report of a cluster of 4 cases of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in Cyprus. It is mentioned that all cases are derived from specific areas of the island. Therefore, the assessment of environmental factors in these areas is crucial for the establishment of preventative public health measures.

Comments

1. In the abstract in the conclusion section. The first sentence “It appears… Paphos.” should be included in Case presentation part of the abstract or should be omitted and referred only in Discussion.

R: Done so. Thank you.

2. Diagnostic methods that were used to confirm the diagnosis in Cases 3 and 4 should be explained. Otherwise, there are only 2 confirmed cases of CL.

3. Moreover, the lesions caused by L. donovani in cases 2, 3 and 4 should be described with more details (erythema, papule, nodule, or ulcer) as well as the kind of treatment that case 2 received.

R: Done so, as suggested.

3. In discussion, the authors should describe in more details the treatment options for CL and when amphotericin B is indicated in CL cases. Furthermore as Case 1 has been diagnosed with PCR-based method, the specificity, sensitivity and accuracy of this test, as well as the other applicable diagnostic tests, should have been mentioned.

R: Done so as suggested.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests

Third Reviewer’s report

Title: A Cluster of four Cases of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis by Leishmania donovani in Cyprus: a case report.

Version: 3 Date: 12 May 2014

Reviewer: Panagiotis Karanis

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is? New associations or variations in disease processes? No
Has the case been reported coherently? No
Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes
Is this case worth reporting?: No
Does the case report have explanatory value?: No
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:

General comments

Abstract: cases: one child, 3 adults. Key words: children?

R: Removed from Keywords

Conclusion: not coherently
R: Changes were made to improve the text.

Introduction: delete the 3 first lines
L. is not only tropical diseases
R: Changed accordingly.

1) Cyprus is geographically not South Europe.
R: The article is referring to leishmaniasis in southern Europe in general, not Cyprus in those sentences. But, Cyprus is Europe and is in the South of Europe (South East).

2) p. 4. MON-37: but there are no any indication of M & M or evidence that this finding is based on any analysis (biochemically or genetic)
R: Additions were made, from our previous publications, to prove that it is MON-37. Both special PCR and zymodeme analysis (the golden standard) were used.

3) p. 5: L. Infantum: please use small initial.
R: Done, thank you.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field.
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests'.