Reviewer’s report

Title: The first described case of Schistosomiasis japonicum diagnosed on liver biopsy in a patient with hepatitis B co-infection

Version: 1 Date: 19 October 2013

Reviewer: Vinod HEGADE

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

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?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

1) Illustrated case is a classical example of HBV e antigen seroconversion suggested by clinical features, LFTs and serology results. Your case report is similar to many other cases of schistosoma diagnosed incidentally on liver biopsy. However, your case clarifies the futility of TE in acute setting. In The hepatology fraternity it is well known that TE is a useless tool in acute hepatitis. In your case, the need for liver biopsy arose from the conflicting results of TE, US liver and biochemistry. If you had not done TE, there would have been no need for liver biopsy. In fact, this patient would not get a liver biopsy in routine clinical practise as the diagnosis of HBV e antigen seroconversion is unequivocal. Therefore one can argue that TE should not have been performed at all which in turn would have avoided the liver biopsy (which is invasive and carries potential risks).
2) The comment on using TE in resource poor settings is incorrect. Fibroscan is a very expensive equipment (cost around £50,000-80,000) which means poor countries may not be able to afford it. I suggest re-wording of the paragraph in the discussion section to avoid giving wrong message to the readers that TE is a cheaper alternative to per cutaneous liver biopsy.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No competing interests to declare.