Author's response to reviews

Title: Multifocal skeletal tuberculosis in an immunocompetent patient: a case report

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thanks for the considerations made in the manuscript entitled “Multifocal skeletal tuberculosis in an immunocompetent patient: a case report”. We would like to clarify through this letter the questions made in the manuscript.

Referee 1

Reviewer: Domingo Prof. Palmero

ABSTRACT

In all the abstract the word tuberculosis is not mentioned. For the reader is important to mention it in the abstract, that in general is the first approach to the paper. For example the first phrase can be: "The occurrence of multifocal skeletal tuberculous involvement in immunocompetent patients is rare, even in countries where tuberculosis is endemic."

Answer: Suggestions accepted, but the phrase suggested is equal to phrase originally written (Line 2-3, Pág 2).

Other issue is that authors mentioned only the compromise of the left knee. It is necessary a bit more of information about the multiple localizations of the TB in this case.

Answer: Suggestions accepted. In this Line 6-8, Pág 2 was inserted the following sentence “The patient in this case presented with lung infection with bilateral skeletal dissemination in the knees and femurs”.

BACKGROUND

The aim of the communication must be the last part of the introduction (line 23, pág 2), not in the middle. The rest of the introduction repeats partially the concepts of the first part. Please merge both parts in one without repetitions, and the objective of the paper at the end of the Background.

Answer: The text has been rewritten and the goal was allocated at the end of the chapter on the Line 11-13, Pág 3.
CASE PRESENTATION

Page 3, line 25: AFB: "acid fast bacilli" is the usual denomination in English. Please change in all the paper AARB for AFB.
Answer: Was Changed the AARB for AFB in all text (Line 20, Pág 3).

Same level: it is not clear how you determine the presence of M. tuberculosis in the sinovial biopsy. Microbiological analysis means culture and genotypic identification? Please clarify.
Answer: Throughout the process care of several samples were obtained, suggesting infection sites, to perform the isolation and identification of a microorganism in a suitable culture medium. The first sample is synovial tissue and the second tissue secretion was obtained by biopsy and surgical drainage of the femur and tibia, the third sample was pus draining of the left knee and finally the right knee.

Other major issue is the drug susceptibility pattern of the strain isolated. In the paper is not mentioned any susceptibility testing (phenotypical or genotypical). It is unusual the long term treatment necessary to obtain a cure of the patient. The presence of drug resistance needs to be investigated. Please clarify.
Answer: Regarding the antibiogram, in the first sample isolated AFB had to be sensitive to the antibiotics used routinely in the clinic (Line 21, Pág 3). The second sample was not possible to isolate the microorganism, probably because the individual was being treated with antibiotics. The third sample was performed isolation, but the lab did not perform antibiotic susceptibility understanding that the patient was already in treatment, which was a wrong course. In the last sample was not isolated the organism therefore was not performed sensitivity. However, as the patient had symptoms suggestive enough and was already treated for a long time PCR was performed in real time were positive for M. tuberculosis. Prolonged treatment has been reported in the literature and has been adopted as the patient was still demonstrating the new episodes of infection shortly care process.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION are adequate.

REFERENCES

All the references must be thoroughly reviewed following strictly the reference citation style of the Journal and using the standard abbreviation of the journal title, for example: Page 8, line 13: "Tuberculosis Research and Treatment". The
abbreviated name of the Journal is: Tuberc Res Treat. (don’t use italics for the title of the journals) Please take note of the punctuation at the end of the Journal's name: Example of article within a journal (from the Authors Guide) Smith J.J. The world of science. Am J Sci. 1999;36:234-5. Reference 8: only 6 authors and "et al." The number of pages must follow the style: 695-7 or 427-32.

Answer: all references were adjusted as reviewer's suggestion Pág 6.

Referee 2

Reviewer: Isdore Chola Shamputa

There were no considerations to be adjusted.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Brandão