Author's response to reviews

Title: Pleural Effusion as the Initial Clinical Presentation in Disseminated Cryptococcosis and Fungaemia: An Unusual Manifestation and a Literature Review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:
We submit our manuscript entitled “Pleural Effusion as the Initial Clinical Presentation in Disseminated Cryptococcosis and Fungaemia: An Unusual Manifestation and a Literature Review” for publication. Cryptococcus neoformans infection usually presents as chronic meningitis, pleural effusion as initial clinical presentation in cryptococcal disease is extremely rare. There have only been 4 cases of pleural effusion as the initial clinical presentation in cryptococcosis reported in the English-language literature to date. We report the first case of pleural effusion as the initial clinical presentation in a renal transplant recipient who was initially misdiagnosed with tuberculous pleuritis but developed fungaemia and disseminated cryptococcosis. We describe a 63-year-old male renal transplant recipient on an immunosuppressive regimen who was admitted for a left pleural effusion and fever, developed meningoencephalitis and fungemia with C. neoformans during hospitalization. In this case, not only the cytology of the pleural fluid was nonspecific, but also the manifestations were untypical in pleural both in thoracoscope observation and pathological study. This partly caused the early-stage misdiagnosis. The rare case indicates that cryptococcal infection must be considered in the patients with pleural effusion in immunosuppressive conditions, even if the cytology and culture of pleural fluid were all negative.

All the authors have read and approved the current version of this manuscript, and the integrity of the work is assured. The manuscript has not been published previously by any of the authors and is not under consideration for publication in another journal at the time of this submission. We believe the paper may be of particular interest to the readers of your journal.

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Thanks very much for your attention to our paper.

Yours sincerely,
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