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:

Please find enclosed the manuscript: “Pleural Effusion as the Initial Clinical Presentation in Disseminated Cryptococcosis and Fungaemia: An Unusual Manifestation and a Literature Review”, to be submitted as a Case report to BMC Infectious Diseases.

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. We believe the paper may be of particular interest to the readers and fit the scope of your journal.

All co-authors have seen and agree with the contents of the manuscript and there is no financial interest to report. We certify that the submission is not under review at any other publication.

Thanks very much for your attention to our paper.

Yours sincerely,

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