Reviewer's report

Title: Recurrence of visceral and muco-cutaneous leishmaniasis in a patient under immunosuppressive therapy

Version: 0 Date: 04 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Asrat Hailu

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Re.: Leishmania infantum infected patient displaying the clinical full spectrum of leishmaniasis. A case report

(INFD-D-17-00328)

General comments:

This short report presents a patient with leishmaniasis and other underlying co-morbid conditions (rheumatoid arthritis, adenopathies, lymphoma/leukemia) and treatment associated immunosuppression. Patient received several therapeutic and prophylactic anti-leishmanial drugs before dying from leukemia.

It is unclear for how long the patient received a secondary prophylaxis of amphotericin B, and under which criteria it was stopped. For HIV-associated immunosuppression this is often done based on CD4 counts.

The episodes of leishmaniasis (VL, CL and MCL) in a recurrent fashion exhibits similarity with the scenario of HIV and Leishmania co-infection. The patient did not have HIV co-infection, though not explicitly stated. It is also unclear if the patient had other concomitant infections considering the sustained immunosuppression.

The title is a bit misleading as it is implied that the full spectrum of leishmaniasis was manifest on presentation. It can be better written as "Recurrence of dermal and visceral leishmaniasis in a patient under immunosuppressive therapy".
The significance of the immunofluorescence test, which tested positive for L. braziliensis, L. tropica and L. donovani is not clear. Are the authors implying multiple leishmania species co-infection?

Specific comments:

1) LB = Leishman bodies, better as "LD bodies" (Leishman Donovan bodies).

2) The term "Zoo-anthroponotic" is wrongly used. A good example of zoo-anthroponosis is tapeworms, where both human and animals make the essential link in the life cycle. Leishmaniasis are either anthropo- or zoonotic, not zoo-anthroponotic.

3) "… by more than 20 parasites of the genus Leishmania.." should read as "… by more than 20 species of the genus Leishmania..".

4) Line 52/53, the expression "to our knowledge" is inappropriately used.

5) What does "extra-mediterranean" mean?

6) The sentence "Contamination in Belgium is not totally excluded" better be replaced with "The leishmania infection was probably acquired in Spain, even though autochthonous infection in Belgium could not be excluded".

Thank you!
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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