Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinico-epidemiological analysis of Post kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) cases in India over last two decades: a hospital based retrospective study

Version: 1
Date: 7 August 2015

Reviewer: Anna Bajer

Reviewer’s report:

Ms presents the analysis of clinic-epidemiological features of post kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis in clinical cases collected in the period of 20 years. Interesting findings are delayed reporting and often misdiagnoses. Three different diagnostic methods were applied and diagnostic procedure was proposed. The treatment advantages and disadvantages were analyzed and discussed.

Minor revision

Ethic statement: line 135: ‘... under the guidelines of the ethical committee’ - could you provide the number of license, if any?

Results: line 170- there is a statement of significant association between type of lesion and age. Could you provide here (not only in the discussion) the real result for it –i.e. what lesions were found in certain age classes.

Similar problem with statistical output reported in lines 180-181: where is a real result for this?

Lines 185-192: associations between type of drug used for the primary VL treatment and the time lapse: I don’t think you can make any reliable analysis or conclusions on the basis of the group treated with miltefosine: there were only three persons treated with this drug at that time. Any generalization shall be not well justified, conclude with caution.

The same concern the part of discussion (lines 255-257), you can not state that time laps (..) were independent of the type of drug used for VL treatment- not enough data, no stat significance.

Tables

Tables 2 and 3: please explain w.r.t

Figures

Figure 1- please provide info, what are the numbers on map – number of cases from each area?

Figure 2: please, rephrase the title: you may delete “Graph illustrating’, exchange ‘over the year’ with ‘in reported period’ ; delete ‘duration’. In my pdf version fig 2 seems very small – can be bigger?

Figure 3. I don’t understand this title. Please rephrase and write precisely what is
shown in these 3 pictures.

Detailed corrections
Line 61: add ‘space’ behind ‘Sudan’
Line 84: correct to ‘develops’
Line 88: add dot in the end of the sentence
Lines 122-123: explain the use of ‘Mw vaccine’ – used as immunomodulator?
Line 304: you may use ‘recent’ or ‘next’ instead of ‘later’

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests