Reviewer's report

Title: Gallbladder ascariasis among children in Kosovo

Version: 0 Date: 10 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Deepak Gunjan

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?

Yes/No

yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

Comments:

no

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?

Yes/No

yes

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify. yes
a. The relevant patient information, including:
   - De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity)
   - Main symptoms of the patient
   - Medical, family and psychosocial history
   - Relevant past interventions and their outcomes

b. The relevant physical examination findings yes

c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at T = 0, follow up at T = 1 month. no

d. Diagnostic assessments, including: yes
   - Diagnostic methods
   - Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)
   - Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention yes

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits yes

Comments:

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?

Comments: no

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.
Yes/No

yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments:

yes

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?

Comments:

no

9. Additional comments for the author(s)?

1. Usually diarrhoea is not a presenting symptom in biliary ascariasis, why all of patients had diarrhoea?

2. Authors have also not provided the complete case history of any of the patients (like duration of presentation) and liver function tests.

3. There is no follow up ultrasonography in any of the patient for confirmation of absence of ascariasis in gall bladder lumen and how long was follow up of the patients.

4. The general principal is that patients should be treated conservatively and watch for self expulsion of the worm from biliary tree and followed by de-worming. As anti-helminthic drugs lead to paralysis of worm so that it can't be extruded itself, leading to complications. However, in your case series you treated immediately without confirmation of self expulsion, why, so?
5. In Case 3 authors has used the term slight dehydration, which is not a correct term. According to WHO classification it should be no, mild or severe dehydration of diarrhoeal disease.

6. The figure should be labelled and out of four, in figure one ascariasis seems to be in liver, not in gall bladder (or better figure should be provided), in figure 2, there is acoustic shadow and there is no typical feature of biliary ascariasis.

7. In discussion, (2nd paragraph) authors wrote that 'If the patients develop cholangitis, pancreatitis or appendicitis jaundice, nausea, vomiting, fever and severe radiating pain will be present.' Authors has mixed the symptoms of all there clinical entities, should be separated.

8. Discussions should be more elaborated as there are many series of biliary ascariasis in children are available.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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