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**The first report of visceral leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania major* in Iran**Bibi Razieh Hosseini Farash<sup>1</sup>, Mahdi Mohebbali<sup>1</sup>, Abdolmajid Fata<sup>2</sup>, Behnaz Akhoundi<sup>1</sup>, Reza Shafiei<sup>2</sup> and Saeedeh Ashkan<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran<sup>2</sup>Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Iran

**Purpose:** In Iran, HIV/AIDS is an emerging disease and both Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) and HIV infections occur sporadically. The known causative agent in Iran for VL is *Leishmania infantum* which is endemic in Ardabil and Fars Provinces. The aim of this study is to report of VL caused by *Leishmania major* in an AIDS patient.

**Methods:** Direct agglutination test (DAT) was performed on a 53 year old HIV/infected male with chronic intermittent diarrhea who registered in AIDS center of Khorasan Razavi Province to investigate VL/HIV co-infection. The mean of CD4+ was 79/mm<sup>3</sup> in this patient. The DAT result was confirmed by bone marrow aspiration and polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

**Results:** DAT test was positive with titer 1:25,600. The amastigote form of *Leishmania* sp. was found in bone marrow aspiration materials and *L. major* was identified by nested-PCR assay compared to standard pattern.

**Conclusions:** Based on the DAT and PCR results for VL, it is recommended: A high sensitive serological test should be performed on HIV positive patients, especially in where are endemic for VL. Other *Leishmania* sp. could be causative agents for VL in immunocompromised people; therefore the observed amastigotes in bone marrow aspiration should be examined by molecular methods to identify *Leishmania* sp. VL/HIV co-infection can occur in endemic areas for cutaneous leishmaniasis, so some studies are proposed to investigate VL caused by CL causative agents in HIV patients.

**Biography**

Bibi Razieh Hosseini Farash was ranked first among more than 3000 participants taking the Nationwide Universities Entrance Examination for PhD degree and she was granted one of six PhD positions in Medical Parasitology at TUMS in 2012 and has been recognized as an Exceptional Talent in Exceptional Talents Development Center of Iran, in addition she has obtained the highest "A" grades in all of her educational studies. She has more than 28 papers published in different congresses and journals.

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