Images in Clinical Hematology

Visceral leishmaniasis: amastigotes in the bone marrow

Thiago Rodrigo de Noronha, Ricardo Ambrósio Fock

Hospital Universitário da Universidade de São Paulo (HU USP), São Paulo, SP, Brazil

A R T I C L E   I N F O

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A 50-year-old man came to the emergency room of a university hospital complaining of weight loss, fever and abdominal pain associated with hepatosplenomegaly. Laboratory investigations revealed pancytopenia with red blood cell (RBC) count of \(2.35 \times 10^{12}/L\), hemoglobin \(7.2\) g/dL (RBCs with rouleaux formation), platelets of \(75.7 \times 10^{9}/L\), white blood cell count of \(2.77 \times 10^{9}/L\) (with 58% neutrophils, 27% lymphocytes, 15% monocytes, 0% eosinophils and 0% basophils), hypoalbuminemia (1.31 g/dL) and hypergammaglobulinemia (6.63 g/dL). Serological test results were negative for antibodies for

Figure 1 – Leishmania amastigotes phagocytosed by macrophages. Black arrows show amastigotes (May-Grünwald stain; (A) magnification: 400×, (B) magnification: 1000×).
hepatitis (B and C) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Due to the laboratory findings and sustained pancytopenia, a bone marrow biopsy was performed which showed Leishmania amastigotes phagocytosed by macrophages (Figure 1) confirming the diagnosis of visceral leishmaniasis infection.\textsuperscript{1,2}

REFERENCES