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

Article history:
Received 12 December 2017
Accepted 20 June 2018
Available online 17 July 2018

Figure 1 – Leishmania amastigotes phagocytosed by macrophages. Black arrows show amastigotes (May-Grünwald stain; (A) magnification: 400×, (B) magnification: 1000×).

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 × 10¹²/L, hemoglobin 7.2 g/dL (RBCs with rouleaux formation), platelets of 75.7 × 10⁹/L, white blood cell count of 2.77 × 10⁹/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
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.1,2

REFERENCES