HEMATOLOGY, TRANSFUSION AND CELL THERAPY

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Images in Clinical Hematology

Visceral leishmaniasis: amastigotes in the bone marrow

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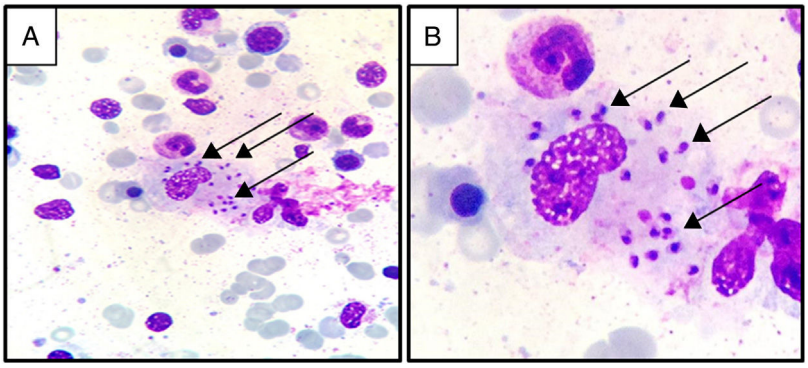

Figure 1 – Leishmania amastigotes phagocytosed by macrophages. Black arrows show amastigotes (*May-Grünwald stain*; (A) magnification: 400×, (B) magnification: 1000×).

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 2.35×10^{12}/L, hemoglobin 7.2 g/dL (RBCs with rouleaux formation), platelets of 75.7×10^{9}/L, white blood cell count of 2.77×10^{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

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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]

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