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Hepatobiliary tuberculosis in the developing world: A systematic review.

Esguerra-Paculan MJA *et al.* Hepatobiliary tuberculosis.

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Answers to Reviewers:

Reviewer 1:

The authors present the case of hepatobiliary tuberculosis. The case presentation is so interesting, however, I have some concerns to discuss.

We are glad for your feedback and for the chance of improving our manuscript.

-What is the difference between hepatobiliary and soft tissue? Please discuss with reference the following article. Tuberculoma with phlegmon-like symptoms mimicking soft tissue sarcoma in the wrist: A case report. Mol Clin Oncol. 2018 Aug;9(2):207-210. doi: 10.3892/mco.2018.1652. Epub 2018 Jun 12. PMID: 30101023; PMCID: PMC6083412.

We have added a sentence in the discussion describing this difference.

-Is any side effect occur?

We have added a sentence in the discussion discussing this subject.

Reviewer 2:

It was an awesome work. I would love to know how you avoided bias and errors from database/library selection. I could see that most articles were from pubmed/medline. Also, how have you made sure that you didn't report (only) a selection of statistically significant outcomes that suits your interest in this study

Thank you for your kind words and for appreciating our work. We are delighted that you found the study to be of value. To address bias and errors, we implemented a rigorous and systematic approach to database and library selection. We aimed to include a diverse range of reputable sources to ensure comprehensive coverage of the topic. Regarding database selection, we primarily relied on PubMed/Medline as it is one of the most widely recognized and respected academic databases for medical literature. However, we also included articles from other reputable databases to ensure a balanced representation of the available evidence. To avoid reporting only statistically significant outcomes that may favor our interests, we followed a transparent and objective reporting approach. Our analysis included all relevant outcomes, regardless of their statistical significance. We made every effort to present the findings as objectively as possible, ensuring a fair and unbiased representation of the study results.

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We have added in the end of the discussion the following text to answer to the questions provided by Reviewer 1:

In hepatobiliary tuberculosis, the infection primarily affects the liver and/or the biliary system, whereas soft tissue tuberculosis refers to tuberculosis infection in the soft tissues of the body, such as muscles, tendons, and ligaments (38). Tuberculosis treatment may lead to side effects such as gastrointestinal symptoms, liver toxicity, skin rashes, peripheral neuropathy, and visual disturbances, but regular monitoring and prompt reporting of any unusual symptoms are essential for successful management. Some current relevant differentials for hepatobiliary tuberculosis are post-COVID-19 cholangiopathy (39) (40), Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (41) (42) and Cytomegalovirus infection (43).

Warm regards,