Author's response to reviews

Title: Primary gamma-herpesviral infection in Zambian children.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Editor
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Dear Sir,

We appreciate the favorable review of our manuscript entitled “Primary gamma-herpesviral infection in Zambian children” (MS ID - 2184287213439484).

The comments of the reviewers were helpful and constructive. We have carefully revised our manuscript according to their suggestions and made necessary editing in the text. The edited text has been underlined.

REFEREE 1
No changes suggested.

REFEREE 2

- With regard to HHV-8 test, the authors used BC-3 and baculovirus-infected Sf9 cells as known antigen with monoclonal-enhanced immunofluorescence assay (mIFAs). Did you compare this mIFAs with the other group-used methods, and what the result is?

    Several laboratories have developed in-house assays which include ELISAs and IFAs which target different HHV-8 antigens. While we have not compared this assay with other assays, we have previously reported that our assay has a high sensitivity (94%) and specificity (96%) (Minhas et al, Clinical and Vaccine Immunology; 2008, 15: 1259-1264).

- Why you didn’t use the Sf9 cells which were simultaneously infected by ORF65, K8.1A, and ORF73 baculovirus?

    Sf-9 cells were infected individually by ORF65, K8.1A and ORF73 in order to maximize the level of protein production of each antigen (Underlined text on Page 6).

- With the respect to relationship between HHV-8 and EBV, some literature indicated HHV-8 and EBV these two viruses can influence their replication for each other, while they simultaneously infected one cells, such as BC-1 and JSC-1 cells. Therefore, some analyses and interpretation should be added to Discussion.

    The aim of this report was to investigate primary infection of HHV-8 and EBV in Zambian children. The reviewer does raise an interesting point which is relevant to events that may occur after primary infection and associated with disease progression.
It has been reported that HHV-8 and EBV may interact at the molecular level and may promote the establishment of latency. This has been added in the discussion section (Underlined text on Page 15).

In conclusion, we have made most of the changes that have been suggested by the reviewers and revised the text accordingly. We believe that we have now addressed most of the concerns of the reviewers, and hope that it is now acceptable for publication.

Thank you very much for your help and kind consideration.

Regards,
Charles Wood