Reviewer's report

**Title:** Variable viral clearance despite adequate ganciclovir plasma levels during valganciclovir treatment for cytomegalovirus disease in D+/R- transplant recipients

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 5 June 2009

**Reviewer:** Solbjørg Sagedal

**Reviewer's report:**

Despite a low number of patients included (N=7) I think this is a very interesting manuscript describing Valganciclovir treatment failure in spite of adequate ganciclovir plasma levels.

In line 60 the word median is written twice, I think "of median" should be deleted.

Concerning reference 6, which is written by the same authors and which is in press, I would like to read the manuscript to ensure that the results of the present manuscript not is included in ref 6.

The authors should clarify whether mean plasma tacrolimus and cyclosporine values are trough values (line 138-140)?

In line 163 is stated that patient 4 was treated with oral valganciclovir a second time 28 days after first therapy cessation.... However, according to table 1 the number of days after end of the last therapy was 21 days. Which is the correct number of days?

The discussion is to the point. It remains unclear to me why the authors think that simultaneous EBV infection should influence the course of CMV infection. Maybe they should discuss possible explanations. Why did they investigate EBV infection in only patient number 7?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.