Reviewer’s report

Title: Excessive proinflammatory cytokine and chemokine responses of human monocyte-derived macrophages to enterovirus 71 infection

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Reviewer: KIEN CHAI ONG

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Overall, the technical approaches used in this study are reliable and sufficient. Although, the susceptibility of monocytes-derived-macrophages to EV71 infection seen to be a novel findings. However, the following points should be clarified or addressed.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. As reported previously, children less that 5-year-old were the most susceptible groups as compared with older children. In this study, adult PBMCs were used instead of children PBMCs. In addition, as shown in this paper by "Seidler et al. 2010. Age-dependent alterations of monocyte subsets and monocyte-related chemokine pathways in healthy adults. BMC Immunology, 11:30", adult derived monocyte-derived macrophages may possibly secrete different levels and/or cytokines/chemokines as compared with children monocyte-derived macrophages. Are the results demonstrated in this study reflect natural in vivo infections? Authors are required clarified and also discussed it in the discussion.

2. Besides, immunofloresence and RT-PCR to confirm EV71 replication in monocyte-derived macrophages. Virus titration should also be performed to confirm the findings.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.