Reviewer's report

Title: Fast selection of maribavir resistant cytomegalovirus in a bone marrow transplant recipient

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Reviewer: Fausto Baldanti

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This manuscript contains interesting new data, and deserves publication. Some suggestions to further improve it follow.

Major:
1. The percentage of virus variants should be calculated on the number of UL97 clones carrying the different aa changes, rather than estimating it on the basis of electropherograms.
2. The patient outcome should be briefly described. Was the patient treated with HCMV-specific T cell clones as she was for adeno? Did she recover?
3. The word "obviously" should not be used. Indeed, the initial high viral load could be a major factor for fast emergence of drug resistant strains, but it is not demonstrated. How many pts with similar HCMV DNA level clear the virus instead of developing drug resistance? Moreover, what about the role of immune suppression? Again, "...obviously several mutated viruses were selected separately...". Indeed, this event is more common, but selection of strains with multiple drug resistance mutations has also been recently reported.

Minor.
1. dosage for FOS, GCV, CDV and leflunomide should be provided.
2. the para "Consistent with MBV acting..." can be deleted.
3. "UL97 is not an essential gene...". However, M. Pritchard showed that UL97-deficient strains are highly impaired in their replication capacity.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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