Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of Ganciclovir for the Treatment of Severe Cytomegalovirus-Associated Pneumonia in Children without Specific Immunocompromised Status

Version: 3 Date: 30 March 2013

Reviewer: Hans Helmut Niller

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

there are again a number of typos or small mistakes which I commented directly in the pdf. Certainly, the authors will correct them.

Major compulsory Revisions:

1. Figure 1 showing the viral loads is an improvement. However, in addition, the figure should be presented in greater differentiation, i.e. presenting all the subgroups in "History" of present Table 1: term infants, pre-term infants, low birth weight infants, and so on.

2. The information which is now given in Table 3, I would prefer to see in graphical form showing individual courses, (also subgrouped) comparable to the present Figure 1.

3. Since the authors could not find out which of the CMV infections were intra-uterine infections and which were not, the least is that a paragraph on this short-coming of the paper is added to the discussion section. The topic can not be omitted.

4. It is not enough to comment in the cover letter that the rapid influenza test is not good enough. The omission of RT-PCRs for other respiratory viruses must be discussed within the paper as well.

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.