Reviewer's report

Title: Immunopathological changes associated with adenovirus type 55 infection severity

Version: 1 Date: 30 August 2013

Reviewer: Bin Cao

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: My major concern is how the etiological diagnosis of the three groups were made.

1. Material and methods-diagnostic criteria: The clinical diagnosis criteria is clearly described, but the etiological diagnosis was not clear for three groups, including silent infections, mild infections and severe infections. In Table 1, only one out of 30 silent patients, and 9 out of 30 in mild cases were tested positive by real-time RCT, how did they diagnosed as infections caused by adenovirus?

2. The development of HadV-55 IgM assay is interesting. But did they authors test the sensitivity and specificity of HAdV-55 IgM tests by "gold standard"?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Description in "pathogen and serotype identification" can be shortened.

2. Another limitation is that the authors did not compare the difference between HAdV-55 and other serotypes.

3. Discussion also should be shortened to focus on the main findings of the paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.