Reviewer's report

**Title:** Cross-sectional study of the relationship of peripheral blood cell profiles with severity of infection by adenovirus type 55

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 13 January 2014

**Reviewer:** Bin Cao

**Reviewer's report:**

I am satisfied with the authors' response about the development of specific IgM antibody detection.

But I still have some concerns:

1. I am not very clear about the definitions of the HI (high incident phase) and RP (receding pandemic phase).
   Does the authors mean that they have collected blood from those patients in both acute phase and convalescent phase.
   If so, have they tested the antibody titer change between acute phase and convalescent phase. Can they provide the data of double antibody titers?
   Routinely, four fold or more antibody titer changes are regarded as "gold standard" of acute infections.

2. This paper is for their reference:

3. The discussion is still a little boring. Can they condense this part focusing on the main findings of the study?

**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.