Author's response to reviews

Title: Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome in children: A case report

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Dear Editor,

We would like to submit our manuscript titled “Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome in children: A case report” as case report to the BMC Infect Dis.

As suggested by the editor, we have added the line number and Ethics Statement. Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS) is an emerging infectious disease caused by a novel bunyavirus, SFTSV, which was reported recently in China, with a wide distribution and high fatality rate. After publication of discovery of SFTSV in the NEJM in April of 2011, approximately 30 articles have been published on SFTSV. Most clinical data so far, however, have been for adults and no data on pediatric patients were presented. The fact is that person-to-person transmission by blood contact has occurred in household contacts. This could put children at particular risk of infection.

In the current study, we indentified four SFTSV infected children through hospital based surveillance. Their clinical and laboratory characteristics were prospectively observed from acute phase of infection until convalescence. The differences between pediatric and adult cases were investigated by comparison with 180 SFTSV infected adult patients who had been hospitalized during the same period from the same counties.

We have the major findings that pediatric SFTS cases had mild and untypical clinical manifestation, and a less aggressive clinical course. Different from adults, thrombocytopenia should be used less vigorously in recognizing SFTSV infection and the liver damage indicators, instead of renal damage indicators, could be used for auxiliary diagnosis of SFTS in children.
This knowledge might provide useful information for clinical management of pediatric SFTS patients.

Our findings will be of interests to the general readers of the Journal including physicians, medical scientists, public health officials, and even the general public.

This manuscript is not under review elsewhere. The authors do not have any commercial or other association that might pose a conflict of interest. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

We appreciate your consideration for our manuscript. Thank you.

Sincerely yours

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