Reviewer’s report

Title: Two severe H7N9 pneumonia patients with immunoneuroendocrine axis dysfunction and vitamin D insufficiency

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Reviewer: chun huang

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, the authors report two cases of H7N9 pneumonia patients with immunoneuroendocrine axis dysfunction and vitamin D insufficiency. Both cases had been confirmed H7N9 infection by Chinese CDC. These two patients showed loss of cortisol rhythm, low serum phosphorus and vitamin D levels and decline of cellular immune function. I think the laboratory data are authentic. I have the following comments.

1. What are the relative clinical manifestations of immunoneuroendocrine axis dysfunction and vitamin D insufficiency in H7N9 pneumonia patients?

2. Since vitamin D is known to possess anti-inflammatory and immune-modulating effects, whether vitamin D deficiency population were susceptible to H7N9 pneumonia?

3. Whether vitamin D deficiency before H7N9 pneumonia will lead to adverse outcome in H7N9 infection?

4. Whether vitamin D replacement therapy will improve the outcome of H7N9 pneumonia?

5. Immunoneuroendocrine axis dysfunction is the result of H7N9 or Immunoneuroendocrine axis dysfunction can make people susceptible to H7N9?

6. Please refer the format of case report for BMC Infectious Disease.

7. Please provide the year when the patients were admitted.

8. It is not necessary to repeat the therapeutic intervention in paragraph 3.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.