Reviewer's report

**Title:** Respiratory virus in immunocompetent community-acquired pneumonia: is it a real pathogen or a bystander? Comparing to influenza like illness and healthy volunteers

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 10 April 2014

**Reviewer:** Chunxue Bai

**Reviewer's report:**

Recommendation: Major Compulsory Revisions

The article entitled “Respiratory virus in immunocompetent community-acquired pneumonia: is it a real pathogen or a bystander? Comparing to influenza like illness and healthy volunteers” investigated the role of virus in CAP and found that virus is a common etiology of CAP which accounted for about one third of the etiology. Recently, virus and atypical pathogens become increasingly common in CAP, suggesting that we should pay more attention to these pathogens. This article has provided similar results and would be useful in clinical environment. Nevertheless, I have some comments:

1. In the article, there are 49 patients with community acquired pneumonia caused by viruses but only a few of them received anti-viral treatment. How did the rest of the patients get cured? Did they received antibiotics and if so, what were the roles of antibiotics in these patients? Did they incur undetected bacterial infection?.

2. Patients have recovered even without receiving anti-viral therapy yet no false positive results have been reported in the NAT test. Please specify how the test should be used and when anti-viral drugs should be administered.

3. In the CAP groups, only 3 patients had pure bacterial infection, a really low percentage compared with the previous study about the etiology of CAP. In this regard, I think you should include the test about bacterial infection too.

According to the above comments, this article should be revised and re-reviewed.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.