Reviewer's report

**Title:** An etiological reappraisal of pancytopenia - largest series reported till date from a single tertiary care teaching hospital

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 30 April 2013

**Reviewer:** zonghong shao

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors in this study investigated the incidence of pancytopenia caused by various causes through a two years' study on 250 cases of pancytopenia. An etiological classification of pancytopenia was put forward, showing that hypersplenism, infections, myelosuppressants and megaloblastosis were the most common causes of pancytopenia in this centre of India. The authors also compared their findings with those of other similar studies in the world, and provided probable explanations for the differences and similarities. This is a significant work providing useful information for clinicians in differentiating and managing pancytopenia.

There are a few questions:

1. In Table 1, in the subtypes of "Infections", were there any crossing between "Septicemia" and "Enteric fever" or "Tuberculosis"? It would be better to describe the pathogens causing septicemia in detail.

2. Since pancytopenia caused by "Leukemia", "Lymphoma" and "Plasma cell dyscrasia" shared the same mechanisms of infiltration by malignant cells, they could be integrated into one group.

3. Written English needs to be improved before publication.

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

**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.