Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 11 May 2013

**Reviewer:** Vineeta Gupta

**Reviewer's report:**

Authors have reported the possible etiological factors for pancytopenia from a single center in India. Specific comments are as follows:

**Title:** It is too long and inappropriate.

**Introduction:** The statement that "there aren't many comprehensive studies on this topic from developed world...." is incorrect. Do authors mean "developing countries". There are many studies available on the topic is evident from the fact that the authors themselves have quoted 16 studies on the topic from developing countries. There are other studies also which have not been quoted. So the topic is well researched!

**Materia & methods:** Inclusion criteria is not clear. Did all patients undergo a bone marrow examination.

What was the cellularity in cases on aplastic anemia.

Why were patients from 2 months to 95 years grouped together. Etiology of pancytopenia is very different in pediatric age group as compared to adults. Causes like alcoholic cirrhosis do not feature in pediatric population. The data would have been more informative if authors had divided patients according to age groups.

**Results:** Patients on chemotherapy and radiotherapy should not be included in analysis as these are known causes of myelosuppression

**Discussion:** Needs modification as per comments given above.

**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.