Reviewer's report

Title: Cytokine responses and correlations thereof with clinical profiles in children with enterovirus 71 infections

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2015

Reviewer: Qibin LENG

Reviewer's report:

Line 31-32: "the acute phase in severe and critical cases treated with intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) and glucocorticoids" means that all these patients had been given a combinatory treatment of IVIG and glucocorticoids? If yes, it should be described well in method section.

Line 36-38: the sentence is too long and confusion, better to rephrased it to two sentence.

Line 73-75: it is confusing too. "on the other".

Line 104-105: "Nine acute- and five recovery-phase CSF samples were obtained from two patients who died, and all were negative upon bacterial culture." How could they can get the recovery-phase CSF samples from died patients?

Line 108: the author stated "not all such specimens came from the same patients because of difficulties associated with specimen collection". The statement should be more precise, e.g. 10 paired-samples from the same patients.

Line 169: "sought correlations between" should be "sought to analyze the correlation between"

line 180: "any other inflammatory marker" should be "any other inflammatory markers"

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests