Reviewer's report

Title: Unusual manifestation of disseminated herpes simplex virus type 2 infection associated with pharyngotonsilitis, esophagitis, and hemophagocytic lymphohisitocytosis without genital involvement

Version: 0 Date: 12 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Georges Verjans

Reviewer's report:

The MS submitted by Kurosawa S et al. describes an unusual case report of disseminated HSV-2 infection presented as patient with pharyngotonsillitis etc at submission. The authors are congratulated that they identified HSV-2 infection promptly as main cause of disease and started appropriate effective therapy leading to full recovery of the patient. The MS is clearly written and the data presented support the authors' conclusions.

The MS will be improved by addressing the following minor issues:

1. Provide more info on methods used. This can be done by referring to published work (e.g. in case of PCR) or mention it in the legends of the respective figures: Figs 1 & 3.

2. Fig 1: provide low power staining + zoom in in updated figure. Furthermore, indicate in legend what is shown: use specific markers to mark cell types of interest. Latter issue should be included in Fig. 3 too.

3. Page 9, lines 167-168: The authors suggest that the parthenogenesis of the case presented may be due to HSV-2 reactivation. Serology on pre-serum samples is recommended to support this notion.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

No applicable

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