Author’s response to reviews

Title: Epidemiological characteristics, clinical manifestations, and treatment outcome of 139 pediatric Ebola patients treated at a Sierra Leone Ebola Treatment Center

Authors:

Jia Kangbai (Jia.Kangbai@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

Christian Heumann (chris@stat.uni-muenchen.de)

Michael Hoelscher (hoelscher@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

Foday Sahr (fodaysahr1@gmail.com)

Guenter Froeschl (Froeschl@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

Version: 3 Date: 07 Jan 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor of BMC Infectious Disease journal,

We want to express our gratitude for considering our manuscript for publication in your well established journal. We would also like to thank the various reviewers for taking their time to review our manuscript.

Please below our point-by-point responses to your recommendations and comments of the reviewers.

Editor Comments:

1. If consent to participate was not required, please provide details of why this was waived and the institution/committee that approved the waiver in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations. Further, please clarify whether any administrative permission were required to access the raw data. If so please state who granted permission in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section.
Authors’ response Editor’s comment 1: We would like to thank you very much for taking your time to review our manuscript and your request to provide the name of the committee that granted us the waiver for an informed consent as well as the reasons for such waiver in the first place. We have provided in the Declaration Section (Ethics approval and consent to participate) the name of the committee that waivered the requirement for an informed consent from the study subjects as well as the reasons (line 432 - 438) for such waiver.

2. Please amend your "Availability of Data and Materials" section to read "The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request." Please ensure that any data made available is sufficiently de-identified to protect patient confidentiality.

Authors’ response Editor’s comment 2: Thank you for your request to amend "Availability of Data and Materials" section. We would like to inform you that such amendment has been (line 444 - 446).

3. We would like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of MH, as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to critical revision of the manuscript alone, does not usually justify authorship.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

a) made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND
b) been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
c) given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND
d) agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
Anyone listed as an author must be included in this section. If you choose to change your author list you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it by email to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship.

Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

Authors’ response Editor’s comment 3: Thank you for bringing to our notice the lack of authorship status of MH which was due to oversight. The appropriate authorship status for MH has now been accounted for (line 456, 458).

4. Upon re-submission please ensure Figure 1 and Figure 2 are provided as separate files. Currently they do not appear to have been uploaded with your manuscript.

Authors’ response Editor’s comment 4: Figures 1 and 2 have been uploaded as separate files.

5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Authors’ response Editor’s comment 5: The clean and final manuscript including all the relevant tables without track changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text has been uploaded as a single file. Figures 1 and 2 were uploaded as separate files.

Once again on behalf of my colleagues I would like to thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript.

Best regards

Jia Kangbai