Author’s response to reviews

Title: Clinical characteristics and managements of severe hand, foot and mouth disease caused by Enterovirus 71 and Coxsackievirus A16 in Shanghai, China

Authors:
Kang Cai (36450830@qq.com)
Yizhong Wang (wangyz@shchildren.com.cn)
Zhongqin Guo (guozq_ny@163.com)
Huiju Yu (yhj3479@163.co)
Huajun Li (lihuajun1983@126.com)
Liya Zhang (missingyiwen@126.com)
Shanshan Xu (xushanshan@xinhuaemed.com.cn)
Qingli Zhang (zhangqingli@xinhuaemed.com.cn)

Version: 3 Date: 28 Feb 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

February 28, 2019

Prof. Yoke-Fun Chan
Editor
BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear Prof. Yoke-Fun Chan,

Many thanks for the letter dated February 26, 2019, regarding our manuscript entitled “Clinical characteristics and managements of severe hand, foot and mouth disease caused by Enterovirus 71 and Coxsackievirus A16 in Shanghai, China” (Manuscript ID INFD-D-18-01940R2). We appreciate the valuable comments of the editor and reviewer. Based on the editor and reviewer’s comments and suggestions, we have revised the manuscript. Our specific point-by-point responses to the editor and reviewer’s comments and suggestions are as follows:
Research Square (Reviewer 3):

1. How was the sample size of 50 mild cases and 100 health controls decided?
Response: We thank for the valuable comments of reviewer 3. In order to achieve an effective power of a statistical test between multiple groups, equal or similar number of cases should be enrolled in each group. To match the number of patients of EV-A71 (90), and CV-A16 HFMD (144), 100 mild cases and 100 healthy controls were enrolled to compare the cytokine levels based on the comments from the editor and previous reviewers.

2. What do the authors mean by U test and H test, they need to elaborate these. Are they referring to Mann-Whitney as U test, if so then how is it different from Rank sum test? These tests need to be explicitly stated in the methods section.
Response: In our study, we used nonparametric test to evaluate the significance of difference between independent samples. U test is referring Mann-Whitney U test, and H test is referring Kruskal-Wallis H test. Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the difference of two independent groups, and Kruskal-Wallis H test was used to compare the difference between multiple independent groups. We have corrected this information in the methods section (see Methods section, line 22-23, page 6; and line 1, page 7,).

We hope that our revised manuscript is now suitable for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Sincerely Yours,

Qingli Zhang, MD
Department of Pediatrics, Xinhua Hospital
Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine
Email: zhangqingli@xinhuamed.com.cn