Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 20 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Veasna DUONG

Reviewer's report:

General comments

The manuscript by Kang Cai used retrospective data from a hospital in Shanghai, China. There were a fairly large number of patients confirmed for EV-A71 or CV-A16 infections in the study. However, the study presented a common weakness of using retrospective data. In the general, the methodology is not clear and well defined in particular the treatment trial which is the core feature of the manuscript. The result was not well presented and the discussion was not robust. Additionally, English should be reviewed prior to resubmission. At the present state, it is not recommended for publication consideration.

Major comments

- How healthy children were enrolled? According to page 5, the healthy children were enrolled from children who came to Xinhua Hospital for health checkup. Is this a regular normal health checkup?
- The control group was not well described although it was stated that it was matched by gender and age but there was not data on the control group.
- The healthy control group might not be appropriate for comparison with severe HFMD cases. The author should compare the severe vs. non severe HFMD cases. Hence, we can't draw any useful conclusion from the result particularly the comparison of cytokines levels among the 3 groups.
- Although the author stated in the limitation of the study, the randomization of the treatment is crucial to draw any substantial conclusion of the efficacy of the treatment by IVIG. Additionally, the efficacy of Ribavirin was not presented.

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.

No

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

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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