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: 2 Date: 25 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Research Square

Reviewer's report:

"STATISTICAL REVIEWER ASSESSMENT:

Is the study design appropriate for the research question (considering whether the analyzed population accurately reflects the design and whether you see any problems with control/comparison groups, e.g., likely confounders)?
Yes - overall design, population, and control groups are appropriate

Are methodologies adequate and well implemented (considering whether assumptions are addressed and whether analyses are robust)?
No - there are minor issues

Are the analyses adequately communicated (considering whether reporting details are adequate and whether figures and tables are well labeled and described)?
Yes - important reporting details are present, analyses are adequately communicated, figures and tables are well labeled and described

Does the interpretation accurately reflect the analyses without overstatement (considering whether limitations/bias are acknowledged and whether accurate descriptors, e.g., 'significant', are used)?
Yes - interpretation accurately reflects analyses, limitations/bias are acknowledged, accurate descriptors are used

Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a statistically sound contribution?
Probably - with minor revisions

STATISTICAL REVIEWER COMMENTS:

This is well designed and conducted study with clear presentation of data. The paper describes important data about HFMD which is an endemic problem in many parts of the world. I have minor suggestion in terms of the statistical section which is highlighted below.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
How was the sample size of 50 mild cases and 100 health controls decided? 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."

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

**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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3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
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5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

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