Reviewer's report

Title: Nontuberculous Mycobacterium Infection Complicated with Haemophagocytic Syndrome: A Case Report and Literature Review

Version: 1 Date: 29 Mar 2019

Reviewer: LIH-YU CHANG

Reviewer's report:

1. Page 6, Line 17: You mentioned about "Natural Killer (NK) cell activity was reduced". Could you explain simply about which method do you used to test NK cell activity?

2. Page 6, Line 22: About autoimmune diseases, the serum markers shown in Table.1 are ANA and ANCA only. If other autoimmune profile has been checked but not be listed? There are many autoimmune disease would affect hemophagocytosis, such as systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, mixed connective tissue disease, adult-onset Still's disease...et al. If you check ANA and ANCA only, there will be many autoimmune diseases would be missed.

3. Page 6, Line 37: If possible, mentioning anti-INF-gamma-Ab examination is not available at your hospital at this part might be better.

4. Page 6, Line 50: If HLH-2004 criteria is used for hemophagocytosis diagnosis, I think list the triglyceride/ fibrinogen/ sIL-2r data is better.

5. Page 6, Line 50: Could you list the prednisone dosage/ body weight ratio?

6. Page 6, Line 53-59: The treatment duration of amikacin is not listed.

7. Page 10, Line 9: In this part, you mentioned about the "count" of NK cell; however, in previous part (as question 1), you mentioned about "NK cell activity". What you checked is the cell activity or the cell count of NK cell? or both of them were checked?
8. Page 11, Line 28-34: There are still other case reports about tuberculosis with hemophagocytosis. So, immunocompromised + HPS + granuloma in bone marrow biopsy should let us beware of the risk of TB or NTM infection. If adjusting the conclusion to "... and suspicion of possible mycobacterial (TB or NTM) infection" and listed the references of TB infection with HPS should be better.

9. Table 1: Please give more detail CBC data (MCV, MCH, MCHC) to give more data for the cause of anemia evaluation.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess

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:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

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.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal