Reviewer’s report

Title: ASSESSING THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF MAGNESIUM SULFATE FOR MANAGEMENT OF AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM DYSREGULATION IN VIETNAMESE CHILDREN WITH SEVERE HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2019

Reviewer: Simon Nadel

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting report of the use of Magnesium Sulphate in patients with HFMD and encephalopathy. It reports 2 aspects - a RCT that was stopped prematurely due to futility, and a retrospective observational study of the author's experience of the use of MgSO4 in a cohort, with some effort to match controls.

The report essentially suggests no adverse effects of MgSO4 in treatment of HFMD and encephalopathy, and no clear evidence of efficacy.

The manuscript is well written and clear.

My only query is that some of the levels of serum Mg in the control patients reported appear to be very high - much higher than would be expected in patients untreated with Mg and it is not clear why this should be unless they had received supplemental Mg. Maybe the authors could explain this.

Also, the dose used in this study was 30-50mg/kg per hour for 72 hours, where most paediatricians are used to a dose of 40mg/kg repeated once or twice only (for acute asthma). It may be useful for the authors to explain the dose used in this study more explicitly so clinicians can understand the dosing and safety concerns.

Otherwise I have no further comments apart from that this is important work in a difficult to study cohort.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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?
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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:

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