Reviewer's report

Title: Therapeutic plasma exchange in a tertiary care center: 185 patients undergoing 912 treatments - a one-year retrospective analysis

Version: 0 Date: 10 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Kelly Lambert

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for a clearly written manuscript that makes an important contribution to the knowledge base.

There are several areas that require amendment to improve readability.

Background:
line 12 - " fresh frozen plasma is used as the exchange fluid' appears out of place in this sentence.
line 22 - please elaborate why treatment numbers are increasing in the transplant population
line 51 - please define what the abbreviations cTPE and mTPE are

Statistical analysis: Data is not normally distributed - suggest using non parametric stats not t tests/ paired t tests

Results:
line 40 - is the difference in calculated plasma volume statistically significant - please clarify
line 55 - relative exchanged plasma volume in vasculitis is stated in the text as 0.87 (0.79-0.99) but is stated as 0.88 in the table
treatment time and no of treatments - this paragraph jumps between figure 5 and table 1 (although reference to table 1 is not listed - please amend this)

Adverse events paragraph was hard to read. it is unclear how the statement that the mode of TPE influenced the adverse event rate. Similarly, it is not clear form table 2 or elsewhere that cTPE pts had a lower AE rate. Suggest the last 4 lines of this paragraph are moved to become the first 4 lines.

Tables and Figures
Table 1: add in abbreviations
Table 2: suggest add line at bottom of table showing there were 6 severe AEs and 34 mild or moderate AEs. Also spell out AE. The text below table 2 does not belong there - belongs with ? table 1??

Figure 1 and 2: add in % so you can easily interpret the proportions
Figure 3 and 4 - r2 value should be discussed in text and how this was derived in the statistical analysis section.

Discussion: page 2 line 22 'bods' weight should be body weight. Can you explain or speculate what some of the other reasons for variations in AE rates between studies might be ?

Conclusion: first word should be 'In'. The conclusion needs revision - it outlines the main finding and limitations rather than giving a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.
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?
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?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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