Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of Chronic Active Antibody-mediated Rejection in Renal Transplant Recipients – A single center retrospective study

Version: 0 Date: 21 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Jadranka Buturovic-Ponikvar

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript “Treatment of Chronic Active Antibody-mediated Rejection in Renal transplant recipients” is a retrospective single centre clinical study comparing two regimens of treating active antibody-mediated rejection (standard and aggressive treatment) in 82 cases of biopsy proven active rejection.

The major study finding is that graft survival was better in the group of patients with aggressive treatment, however, there were more side effects, mainly infections. The authors conclude that intensive prevention and control of infection should be provided for the group with aggressive treatment.

The limitations of the study are discussed. The major weakness of the study are patients' selection - allocation to the treatment in a retrospective study design. In addition to relatively low number of patients the results may not support the conclusion.

Addressing important issues are necessary, so I recommend it for major revision.

Specific comments

Major

Patients selection to standard and aggressive treatment group - please clarify.

Have reimbursement policy in Taiwan influenced patient allocation to standard and aggressive treatment?

In the abstract it is stated 82 graft biopsies were analyzed. Does that mean 82 patients? Please clarify in the abstract and in the text.

DFPP annually - please describe a protocol?
How was graft loss defined?

IvIg may not be considered as aggressive treatment as they may protect from infection (contrary to other aggressive immunosuppressive therapy). Please comment on that.

Minor

Table 1.

Please reduce the number of decimals.

Please explain abbreviations in the table (Banff score)

Please provide units for creatinine, e GFR etc

Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?
As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

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Yes

Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?
Please state in the ‘Comments to Authors’ box below what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the methods (study design, data collection, and data analysis), and what is required, if anything, to improve the quality of reporting

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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NA
Are you able to assess the statistics?
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

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