Reviewer’s report

Title: Temporal changes in gut microbiota profile in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia prior to commencement-, during-, and post-cessation of chemotherapy

Version: 0 Date: 07 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Peter Natesan Pushparaj

Reviewer's report:

General Comments

The manuscript entitled "Temporal changes in gut microbiota profile in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia prior to commencement-, during-, and post-cessation of chemotherapy" submitted by Chua et al. to BMC Cancer studied the temporal changes of gut microbiota in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) pre-, during-, and post-chemotherapy.

Specific Comments

1. In the Abstract, the Authors need to mention the techniques used in the current study to examine the gut microbiota

2. The sample size is very small, so that the Authors need to increase the sample number in the study groups

3. The microbiota dysbiosis in the gut is influenced by antibiotics. Hence it is appropriate to include an additional control group with healthy children (without ALL) treated with Antibiotics for fever and other minor illnesses

4. The authors should also consider studying the gut microbiota in children with ALL (without taking antibiotics)

5. The gut microbiota is also influenced by the severity of ALL, treatment regime, etc., and the Authors should consider including the additional factors potentially influencing the gut microbiota in their data analysis.
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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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