Reviewer’s report

Title: A case report of a teenager with severe hand, foot, and mouth disease with brainstem encephalitis caused by Enterovirus 71

Version: 1 Date: 27 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer’s report:

"REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER:

Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? No

Reviewer comments: Thank you for responding to my comments, and for the opportunity to re-review. The introduction and discussion remain the most compelling components of this manuscript and are very well-written.

The responses to queries pertaining to the Case Presentation are appreciated, although frequently incomplete, raising additional questions that the authors may wish to consider. These instances are detailed below. Provided that case details could be appropriately clarified (and efficiently communicated), I would confidently assert that the work represented "a technically sound contribution".

1. Description of neurological examination. As articulated in my earlier comment, more detailed description of the neurological examination is required. At a minimum, you should clearly state that lower and upper left face were involved. What pattern of weakness was observed in the left limb (pyramidal weakness? proximal > distal)?

2. The inclusion of detailed CSF findings strongly support the authors’ assertion of an underlying inflammatory / process.

3. Clearly state where your clinical laboratory is located. E.g., "All testing was performed within the clinical laboratory at X Hospital (City, Province)."

4. Details are still missing when describing neurologic decompensation. It would be useful to present the neurological examination in a traditional format. E.g., Mental status ("the patient was somnolent and non-verbal"), cranial nerves ("Pupils were sluggishly responsive to light, with mild anisocoria (OD=3mm, OS=4mm) in light and dark. Comment on extra-ocular movements, facial symmetry / movement, palatal elevation and tongue protrusion), motor exam (including reflexes). These details are important to support your assertion of "brainstem encephalitis" (which two Reviewers have had reason to question)."
Minor Points

- In P1 of Case Presentation--state which hospital the patient was admitted to and location (e.g., "Department of Infectious Diseases [Hospital X, City, Province]"").

- In P1 it would be sufficient to simply state "He reported recent contact with a HFMD. Medications were limited to recent use of over-the-counter analgesics.""

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

No

**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.

No

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

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