

Responses to editors and reviewers' comments

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for the critical comments about our manuscript entitled “Diagnostic value of bone marrow cell morphology in visceral leishmaniasis-associated hemophagocytic syndrome of two cases”. We have carefully considered the comments and revised the manuscript accordingly. With these improvements, we hope that the current version can meet the journal’s standards for publication. The following is a point-by-point response to all the comments and a list of changes we have made to the manuscript. Revised portion is marked **in blue** in the revised manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Responses to Reviewer #1:

1. Comment 1:

1- Were the K39 and DAT tests performed on patients?

Response:

The K39 and DAT tests were performed on two patients, the results were positive and supplemented in the article.

2. Comment 2:

2- Has the rheumatological causes of hlh been investigated for patients?

Response:

The rheumatism-related pathogens and laboratory test indexes of the 2 children were normal. The results of test items included Antihemolytic streptococcus O、rheumatoid factor(RF)、anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody(ACPA)、anti-nuclear antibody(ANA) have been supplemented in the article.

3. Comment 3:

3-With the diagnosis of what type of malignancy, chemotherapy was performed for them?

Response:

Case 1 was diagnosed as possible acute leukemia in another hospital, and only symptomatic treatment such as transfusion of washed red blood cells and platelets was

performed, and no chemotherapy was given to the child.

4. Comment 4:

4-What was the treatment for their visceral leishmaniasis?

Response:

Both children were treated with sodium stibogluconate (SSG) (manufactured by Shandong Xinhua Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.), 200 mg antimony/kg . The total amount was divided into 6 doses, intramuscular injection or intravenous injection twice a week, a course of 3 weeks (6 doses).

Responses to Reviewer #2:

1. Comment 1

1-I suggest: Diagnostic value of bone marrow cell morphology in visceral leishmaniasis-associated hemophagocytic syndrome: two cases [reports](#)

Response:

The title of manuscript was changed to “ Diagnostic value of bone marrow cell morphology in visceral leishmaniasis-associated hemophagocytic syndrome: two cases reports”

2. Comment 2

2-Both children went under the same treatment. Please, make it clear.

Response:

Both children were treated according to HLH-2004 chemotherapy regimen for 2 weeks, The clear interpretations were performed in the article

3. Comment 3

3-Please specify the therapeutic regimen and the time required for discharge.

Response:

The clinical symptoms and related experiments of the two children were that the test results returned to normal, and no leishmania was found in the bone marrow reexamination. Both children were cured and discharged from the hospital after 3 weeks of SSG treatment

4. Comment 4

There are several species in the *Leishmania* genus. Please add the sp or point out the main species related to VL

Response:

Common pathogens included *Leishmania donovani*, *Leishmania infantum*, and *Leishmania tropica* have been supplemented in the article

Responses to Reviewer #3:

1.Comment 1

1-When was this diagnosed? The history is not clear

Response:

The history of Epstein-Barr virus-related hemophagocytic syndrome in April 2017

2.Comment 2

2-The meaning of this sentence is not clear. Do you mean the laboratory test met the HLH2004 criteria? Must be clarified.

Response:

According to clinical manifestations and laboratory examinations, both children met the diagnostic criteria for HLH

3.Comment 3

This is not stated in the case description.. Or do you consider HLH as a hematological malignancy?

Response:

The clinical symptoms of the child did not improve, and the child was still feverish. After the symptomatic treatment, the clinician suspected that the child might have acute leukemia. which have been supplemented in the article

Re-reviewer's comment: I did not get the edited manuscript with changes in blue. There are some spelling and grammar mistakes

Response: The edited manuscript with changes in blue sees attachment. Some spelling and grammar mistakes have been revised.