OPEN PEER REVIEW

## Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

## What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

## Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://sites.kowsarpub.com/kowsar/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

Archives of Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Article DOI: 10.5812/pedinfect.107218
Published in: Archives of Pediatric Infectious Diseases: 9(1); e107218

# Peer Review Report for "Evaluation of Varicella-Zoster Virus Immunoglobulin G in Children With Malignancies on Chemotherapy"

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## Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 6 Jul 2020
Revised Date: 16 Aug 2020
Accepted Date: 26 Aug 2020

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

**REFEREE**: Reviewer | Revision (0) 23 Jul 2020

Dear AE,
Thanks very much for this very valuable article that addresses a very important topic.
- Patients undergoing chemotherapy are exposed to a variety of infections, including varicella-zoster virus infection. In these cases, we sometimes resort to IVIG due to the lack of intravenous immunoglobulin against varicella-zoster.
- Sometimes chemotherapy patients develop a diffuse infection, and sometimes they have a recurrent VZV infection. In the last three years, I have had about 8 cases of primary VZV infection that benefit from IVIG treatment. Of these ten, two had a recurrent VZV infection after one year and one had zoster a few months after the onset of varicella, who received IVIG again and recovered without any side effects.
- In particular, vaccine prophylaxis is not recommended in chemotherapy patients.
- I hope this article is not the last step in identifying patients at risk of infection. And such valuable and useful studies will continue and we will soon see the introduction of VZIG in the country.
Thanks.

**REFEREE**: Reviewer | Revision (0) 24 Jul 2020

Dear AE,
In this article, evidence of varicella virus infection in children with cancer has been studied .
- Due to the fact that vaccination against varicella is not performed routinely in our country, many children are at risk of getting sick with varicella. it can be associated with serious complications , especially in malignant patients .
- Therefore the chosen topic is of great importance .
- The general structure of the article is appropriate for English writing.
- There is no objection to the different parts of the article, including the results and the discussion.
- A more complete study with more samples and more sensitive method ,is needed in this field.
Thanks.

**REFEREE**: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 26 Jul 2020

Dear EIC,
Thanks very much for this very valuable article that addresses a very important topic .
- The general structure of the article is appropriate for English writing.
- There is no objection to the different parts of the article, including the results and the discussion.
- A more complete study with more samples and more sensitive method, is needed in this field.
Thanks.

**REFEREE**: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 1 Aug 2020

Dear EIC,
The manuscript is studied, and there are some comments which should be addressed by the author. According to the comments, the document needs major revision.
Kind regards,

**REFEREE**: EIC | **Revision** (0) 5 Aug 2020

Dear Author,
According to the statistical reviewer's comments, this manuscript needs revision.
I think it may be suitable for our journal after quite a lot more work.
Thanks

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Revision (1)

## Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your willingness to consider our initial manuscript “**Evaluation of the Varicella Zoster Virus Immunoglobulin G in Children with Malignancies under Chemotherapy”**. We have carefully read all comments of the reviewer and associate editor's comments. We have rewritten some parts of the original manuscript as requested by associate editor 2 and all improvements in the revised manuscript are designed around the associate editor's comments. Please find the revised version included. We hope this meets the established reputation for quality of your esteemed journal.

**Reviewers' Comments:**

Reviewer 1:

In this article, evidence of varicella virus infection in children with cancer has been studied. .
Due to the fact that vaccination against varicella is not performed routinely in our country , Many children are at risk for getting the sick with varicella . it can be associated with serious complications, especially in malignant patients.

Therefore, the chosen topic, is of great importance.

The general structure of the article is appropriate for English writing.

There is no objection to the different parts of the article, including the results and the discussion.

A more complete study with more samples and more sensitive method is needed in this field.

*Response: Dear reviewer, we greatly appreciate your positive comments.*

Reviewer 2:

In the name of Allah

Thank you very much for this very valuable article that addresses a very important topic.

Patients undergoing chemotherapy are exposed to a variety of infections, including varicella zoster virus infection. In these cases, we sometimes resort to IVIG due to the lack of intravenous immunoglobulin against varicella zoster. Sometimes chemotherapy patients develop a diffuse infection, and sometimes they have a recurrent VZV infection. In the last three years, I have had about 8 cases of primary VZV infection that benefit from IVIG treatment. Of these ten, two had a recurrent VZV infection after one year and one had zoster a few months after the onset of varicella, who received IVIG again and recovered without any side effects.

In particular, vaccine prophylaxis is not recommended in chemotherapy patients. I hope this article is not the last step in identifying patients at risk of infection. And such valuable and useful studies will continue and we will soon see the introduction of VZIG in the country.

Thankful

Dr. Fazl Saleh

Pediatric Oncology Hematology - Bandar Abbas.

*Response: Dear reviewer, thank you for your positive comments.*

## Associate Editor's Comments:

Associate Editor 1:

Thank you very much for this very valuable article that addresses a very important topic. .
The general structure of the article is appropriate for English writing. There is no objection to the different parts of the article, including the results and the discussion.
A more complete study with more samples and more sensitive method ,is needed in this field.

*Response: Thank you for your thoughtful comments.*

Associate Editor 2:

Dear author

1- The purpose of the study is not clearly stated. To explain the purpose of the study, either clearly identify a hypothesis or clearly state the indicators and relationships that you intend to measure in the study.

*Response: Done and acknowledged.*

2- The design of the study should be specified at the beginning of the method section. It is not clear what kind of design the study process is based on.

*Response: Done and acknowledged.*

3- The basis for calculating the sample size is not clear.

*Response: Dear editor, thank you for your helpful comment. This study is the pilot and primary evaluation and because of the budget limitation we could not work on the more specimens. The present single-center cross-sectional study was carried out on the children with malignancy under chemotherapy who were hospitalized in Mofid children's hospital from January 2018 to December 2019.*

Regards

## OPEN PEER REVIEW

### Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

**REFEREE**: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 19 Aug 2020

Dear AE,
The suggestions offered by reviewers are included in article.
Thanks for this good article.
Sincerely

**REFEREE**: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 25 Aug 2020

Dear AE,
The study is reviewed carefully. According to comments and revisions by the author, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks

**REFEREE**: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) — 25 Aug 2020

Dear EIC
Based on the authors' answers to the reviewers' comments, the reviewer(s) have recommended publication.
Kind regards.

**REFEREE**: EIC | **Revision** (1) — 26 Aug 2020

Dear Author,
The document is reviewed carefully by the reviewers. According to their comments and your revisions as requested, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks.