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.111172
Published in: Archives of Pediatric Infectious Diseases: In Press(In Press); e111172

Peer Review Report for "The place of Group A Streptococci in Moroccan Children with Pharyngitis and Emm Type Distribution"

Author(s): Sara Himri, Bouchra Oumokhtar, Samir Atmani, Btissam Arhoune, Kaoutar Moutaouakkil, Bineta Jho Diagne, Samira El Fakir

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 17 Nov 2020
Revised Date: 6 Feb 2021
Accepted Date: 13 Feb 2021

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)

22 Nov 2020

Dear AE,
Comments for the authors:
1. For the first time, the abbreviation for the word should be followed by the full name, and then just enter the abbreviation
2. English grammar and structures need revision.
3. The title and objectives do not match together.
4. The introduction (statement section) to be revised
5. Why you did not use CLSI guidelines replace CA-SFM?
6. For quality control the standard strains its necessary, should be added in the methods and materials.
7. Should be added the figure PCR products in your manuscript
8. The results is unclear and dumb to be revised
9. The discussion to be revised
10. Reference this line to be corrected according to journal format
Thanks.

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

Dear AE,

Thanks for the submission of the article.

Totally, English edition is mandatory for the article, there are many sentences that are not meaningful. please follow the journal instruction in the original article and omit the unnecessary titers.

There are some notes:

Abstract

- Objective: what is the meaning of work out?
- Method: please don't write the research type of the study. A brief presentation of your work is sufficient
- Results: please give the results briefer
- Conclusion: conclusion in the abstract may be one sentence.

Introduction:

1- In the sentence" The percentage of mortality of invasive GAS infections, especially those with ARF, is high in the world both in developed and developing countries, and the majority of them had developed rheumatic heart disease (RHD). Are you sure about this fact? please check the references?

2- Please use "therefore" and "on the other hand" in its suitable position. So what do you mean by the" On the other hand, treatment of GAS infections is based on beta-lactams especially the Penicillin G.

It does not seem that this study could determine the prevalence of streptococcal infection in the pharynx because the sample size is not adequate.

Patients and methods:

- What were the characteristics of patients with streptococcal pharyngitis (your cases definition and inclusion criteria). what was the technique of sampling? what was your solution to decrease technical bias?
- Please summarize the PCR method part. Please give the sampling method and sample size calculation for the estimation of the prevalence of streptococcal pharyngitis.
- Results: what is the age range? what is the meaning of this sentence:" The most common symptoms of tonsillitis in children were a sore throat, pain on swallowing, and fever. They present 91.5% and 90.4% respectively."Did all your cases have exudative pharyngitis, then what is the definition of purulent pharyngitis in this sentence? "Purulent tonsils was presented the most common presenting sign (35.6%)". please don't describe methodologic issues in results.

Discussion:

- Please give the results of other authors in the literature and compare them with your results one by one
- Table 2: please rearrange all the results and omit the no part and give the total number instead.
- Table 3: "sensible" is sensitive and gives the percentage to the total number.
- Table 4 – If there are no cases over 15 years old please omit this column.
- References: please give the references based on journal instruction.

Best regards

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 13 Dec 2020

Dear AE,
The type of study is a cross-sectional descriptive study. The authors should correct this part.
Regards

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 28 Dec 2020

Dear AE,
Thanks so much for considering me as a reviewer in your journal. This manuscript is about "First Emm type distribution of group A Streptococci isolated from children with tonsillitis in Morocco". This manuscript needs Minor revision.
Comments
- Ethics Statement: Ethics Statement part should be written the end of materials and methods.
- Results: The author should be written about the different rates of frequency and also, different Emm types in various seasons in the discussion part. And compare our results with other studies.
Best Regards

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 28 Dec 2020

Dear EIC,
This manuscript is about: "Evaluation of a Multiplex Real-time PCR and WHO Criteria for Diagnosis of Childhood Bacterial Meningitis in a Tertiary Referral Hospital in Iran". This manuscript needs Major revision.
Comments for the authors:
- For the first time, the abbreviation for the word should be followed by the full name, and then just enter the abbreviation.
- English grammar and structures need revision.
- Why you did not use CLSI guidelines to replace CA-SFM?
Introduction:
- In the sentence" The percentage of mortality of invasive GAS infections, especially those with ARF, is high in the world both in developed and developing countries, and the majority of them had developed rheumatic heart disease (RHD). Are you sure about this fact? Please check the references?
- Please use "therefore" and "on the other hand" in its suitable position. So what do you mean by the" On the other hand, treatment of GAS infections is based on beta-lactams especially the Penicillin G.
Patients and methods:
- The type of study is a cross-sectional descriptive study. Please correct this part.
- What were the characteristics of patients with streptococcal pharyngitis (your cases definition and inclusion criteria). What was the technique of sampling? What was your solution to decrease technical bias?
- Please give the sampling method and sample size calculation for estimation of prevalence of streptococcal pharyngitis.

- Ethics Statement: Ethics Statement part should be written the end of materials and methods.

Results:

- What is the age range? What is the meaning of this sentence:" The most common symptoms of tonsillitis in children were a sore throat, pain on swallowing, and fever. They present 91.5% and 90.4% respectively."Did all your cases have exudative pharyngitis, then what is the definition of purulent pharyngitis in this sentence? "Purulent tonsils were presented the most common presenting sign (35.6%)". Please don't describe methodologic issues in results.
- Author should be written about the different rates of frequency and also, different Emm types in various seasons in the discussion part. And compare our results with other studies.
- Table 2: please rearrange all the results and omit the no part and give the total number instead.
- Table 3: "sensible" is sensitive and give the percentage to the total number.
- Table 4 – If there are no cases over 15 years old please omit this column.

References:

- Please give the references based on journal instruction.

Best Regards

Decision:

Major revision

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision (0)** 28 Dec 2020

Dear Authors,

My decision about this manuscript is major revision.

Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

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.

Manuscript ID: 111172

Dear editor,

Thank you very much for your work which is absolutely remarkable. Your corrections are all accurate. Your proposals for reformulation are appropriate and judicious. In expressing my satisfaction, once again, I thank you for your valuable assistance. Please find below all responses to your queries. The changes made in the manuscript and tables were clearly shown by yellow highlight.

Best regards,

Reviewer1:

Comments

1. For the first time, the abbreviation for the word should be followed by the full name, and then just enter the abbreviation
2. English grammar and structure need revision.
3. The title and objectives do not match together.
4. The introduction (statement section) to be revised
5. Why you did not use CLSI guidelines replace CA-SFM?
6. For quality control the standard strains its necessary, should be added in the methods and materials.
7. Should be added the figure PCR products in your manuscript
8. The results are unclear and dumb to be revised
9. The discussion to be revised
10. Reference this line to be corrected according to the journal format

Our Response

1. We change it
2. We revise the English grammar and structures
3. We changed the title and it is highlighted in yellow color.
4. We highlighted the sentences modified in yellow color.

5. We used EUCAST/ CA-SFM because it is the guideline of reference the laboratory of Microbiology and Molecular Biology of Fez Medicine School. Moreover it has many similarities with CLSI guidelines like in the methodology and some antibiotics charges
6. It is added in the methods and materials and highlighted in yellow color
7. The figure PCR products are added in the manuscript
8. The results are revised and highlighted in yellow color
9. The discussion is revised
10. References are corrected according to the journal format

Reviewer 2:

Comments

Ethics Statement: Ethics Statement part should be written the end of materials and methods.

Results: Author should be written about different rate of frequency and also, different Emm type in various seasons in discussion part. And compare our results with other studies.

Our Response

Ethics Statement: The ethics Statement part is written at the end materials and methods.

Results and discussion: We highlighted the sentences added in yellow color.

Reviewer 3:

Comments

Abstract

Objective: what is the meaning of work out?

Method: please don’t write the research type of the study. brief presentation of your work is sufficient

Results: please give the results more brief

Conclusion: conclusion in the abstract may be one sentence.

Our Response

Abstract

Objective: the meaning of the work out is to determine the place of GAS in children with pharyngitis and to determine the emm types of the isolates using emm typing.

Method: it is modified

Results: it is modified

Conclusion: it is modified

Introduction:

1-In sentence" The percentage of mortality of invasive GAS infections, especially those with ARF, is high in the world both in developed and developing countries, and the majority of them had developed rheumatic heart disease (RHD). Are you sure about this fact? please check the references?

2-Please use "therefore" and "on the other hand" in its suitable position. So what do you mean by the" On the other hand, treatment of GAS infections is based on beta-lactams specially the Penicillin G.

Our Response

1-We highlighted the sentences modified in yellow color.

2-We modified the sentence and highlighted in yellow color.

It does not seem that this study could determine the prevalence of streptococcal infection in pharynx because the sample size is not adequate.

Our Response

It is an estimation of the GAS percentage in the throat infection and not the prevalence

Patients and methods:

What was the characteristics of patient with streptococcal pharyngitis (your cases definition

and inclusion criteria). What was the technique of sampling? what was your solution to decrease technical bias?

Our Response

We highlighted the responses in yellow color.

Please summarize the PCR method part. Please give the sampling method and sample size calculation for estimation of prevalence of streptococcal pharyngitis.

Our Response

The PCR method part is summarized. We did a prospective recruitment of patients for a specific period of 14 months, so it is an exhaustive study.

Results: what is the age range? what is the meaning of this sentence:" The most common symptoms of tonsillitis in children were a sore throat, pain on swallowing and fever. They present 91.5% and 90.4% respectively."Did all your cases have exudative pharyngitis, then what is the definition of purulent pharyngitis in this sentence? "Purulent tonsils was presented the most common presenting sign (35.6%)". please don't describe methodologic issues in results.

Our Response

The age range is added. The cases have an erythematous or erythemato-pultaceous sore throat, the erythemato-pultaceous pharyngitis present 35.6%. We highlighted the sentences modified in yellow color.

Discussion:

Please give the results of other authors in the literature and compare them with your results one by one

Our Response

it is done

Table 2: please rearrange all the results and omit the no part and give total number instead.

It is changed

Table 3: ”sensible” is sensitive and give the percentage to total number.

It is modified

Table 4 – If there is no cases in over 15 years old please omit this column.

The column is omit.

References: please give the references based on journal instruction.

it is changed

Reviewer 4:

The type of study is a cross sectional descriptive study. Please correct this part.

Our Response

We corrected this part

Associate Editor's Comments:

Associate Editor 1:

ID: 111172

Comments

- For the first time, the abbreviation for the word should be followed by the full name, and then just enter the abbreviation.

Our response

We change it

- English grammar and structures need revision.

Our response:

We revise the English grammar and structures

- Why you did not use CLSI guidelines replace CA-SFM?

We used EUCAST/ CA-SFM because it is the guideline of reference in the laboratory of Microbiology and Molecular Biology of Fez Medicine School. Moreover it has many similarities with CLSI guidelines like in the methodology and some antibiotics charges

Introduction:

- In sentence" The percentage of mortality of invasive GAS infections, especially those with ARF, is high in the world both in developed and developing countries, and the majority of them had developed rheumatic heart disease (RHD). Are you sure about this fact? Please check the references?

Our response

We highlighted the modification in yellow color.

- Please use "therefore" and "on the other hand" in its suitable position. So what do you mean by the" On the other hand, treatment of GAS infections is based on beta-lactams specially the Penicillin G.

Our response:

We highlighted the modification in yellow color.

Patients and methods:

- The type of study is a cross sectional descriptive study. Please correct this part.

Our response

We correct it

- What were the characteristics of patient with streptococcal pharyngitis (your cases definition and inclusion criteria). What was the technique of sampling? What was your solution to decrease technical bias?

Our response

We highlighted the responses in yellow color.

- Please give the sampling method and sample size calculation for estimation of prevalence of streptococcal pharyngitis.

Our response

We did a prospective recruitment of patients for a specific period of 14 months, so it is an exhaustive study.

- Ethics Statement: Ethics Statement part should be written the end of materials and methods.

Our response

Ethics Statement part is written in the end of materials and methods.

Results:

- What is the age range? What is the meaning of this sentence:" The most common symptoms of tonsillitis in children were a sore throat, pain on swallowing and fever. They present 91.5% and 90.4% respectively."Did all your cases have exudative pharyngitis, then what is the definition of purulent pharyngitis in this sentence? "Purulent tonsils were presented the most common presenting sign (35.6%)". Please don't describe methodologic issues in results.

Our response

The age range is added. The cases have an erythematous or erythemato-pultaceous sore throat, the erythemato-pultaceous pharyngitis present 35.6%. We highlighted the sentences modified in yellow color.

- Author should be written about different rate of frequency and also, different Emm type in various season in discussion part. And compare our results with other studies.

Our response

We highlighted the sentences added in yellow color.

- Table 2: please rearrange all the results and omit the no part and give total number instead.

Our response

It is changed

- Table 3: ”sensible” is sensitive and give the percentage to total number.

Our response

It is modified

- Table 4 – If there is no cases in over 15 years old please omit this column.

Our response

The column is omit.

References:- Please give the references based on journal instruction.

Our response

The references are given based on journal instruction.

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: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) 9 Feb 2021

Dear EIC,
Comments for the authors:
- What's the meaning of "place " Here: to determine the place of GAS in children with pharyngitis.
In the abstract
- Is there any ethic statement?
- What's the comparison of their results with other studies?
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 13 Feb 2021

Dear Authors,
My decision about this manuscript is accepting.
Thanks.