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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Prevalence of Human Bocavirus in Children Under 5 Years with Upper and Lower Respiratory Infections in Southeastern Iran

Ali Hosseininasab, Hamid Reza Mollaei, Zainab Karimi

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

2 comments · 12 Aug 2021 – 29 Aug 2021

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 12 Aug 2021

Dear author
1- In line 61, did you mean “Children between one month and 5 years”?
2- From how many patients was a sample of 200 selected for the study? And on what basis was the sample size calculated?
3- What population does this sample represent in terms of population coverage?
4- For what reason and to evaluate the relationship between which variables was logistic regression analysis performed?
Regards

Fariba Alaei Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 29 Aug 2021

General comments
The manuscript needs some grammatical editing.
Abstract
Why have you concluded that Bocavirus is the major pathogen?
How could you identify only one subtype? Were all subtypes evaluated?
Introduction
Please define ORF.
Your text needs clearer definitions.
Material and methods
What were your inclusion and exclusion criteria?
Results
There is no proper classification in your study. Symptoms, signs, and diagnoses are used together.
Conclusion
It does not match your results.

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reviewer 1:

1-"Bocavirus belong to Parvoviridea and Bocavirus genus". Please edit the sentences in lines 33 and 34.

Answer**:… **Corrected and added in the text(Line27-28)

2- Bocavirus must be written in one form throughout the manuscript; "Bocavirus" and/or "Boca virus" and/or HBcoV…

Answer**: **Corrected and added in the whole text

3- Bocavirus and Parvoviridea and other specific names must be written in "Italic" form. (For example Bocavirus and Parvoviridea)

Answer**: **Corrected and added in the whole text

4- Words in the middle of a sentence should not be capitalized. For example in line 74, "Human" must be changed to human, and in line 75, "Nonstructural" must be changed to "nonstructural"

Answer**: **Corrected and added in the whole text

5- In line 96, what do you mean by " 1/4 min"? Please edit it.

Answer: Corrected and added in the text(line91,92)

6- In lines 109 and 110, the percentage is written wrong. Please check it.

Answers: Corrected (line 105,106)

7- Given that genotype 1 of the virus is the only genotype of "Bocavirus" in this study, how can the performance of other primers be trusted?

***Answer**: **Anyway, we checked the different subtypes according to the instructions, but no case was found**.*

8-In line 107, the "real-time PCR" phrase must be correct.

Answers: Corrected (line 103)

Reviewer 2:

General comments
The manuscript needs some grammatical edition.

Answer: ***Corrected in the whole text***

Abstract
Why have you concluded Bocavirus be the major pathogen?

Answer: this mistake was *Corrected(line17-19)*

How could you define only one subtype? were all subtypes evaluated?

Answer: *Anyway, we checked the different subtypes according to the instructions, but no case was found*.

Introduction
Please define ORF.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text****(line 29)*

Your text needs better definition

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text****(line 29)*

Material and methods
What were your inclusion and exclusion criteria?
Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text****(line 58,59, 66, 67)*

Results
There is no proper classification in your study. Symptoms, signs and diagnoses are used together.

Answer: **Thanks for paying attention to this point; As you know, except for bocavirus infection, no other specific diagnosis has been considered. In addition, the number of clinical signs and symptoms was not large enough to be addressed separately.**
Conclusion
It does not match with your results.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text****(line 176-179)*

Associate Editor 1:

1- In line 61; did you mean "Children between one month and 5 years"?

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(line 58,59)***

2- From how many patients was a sample of 200 selected for the study? And on what basis is the sample size calculated?

Answer: ***Based on similar studies and statistical calculations, the statistician has suggested this sample size. Unfortunately, due to the price of laboratory materials, it was not possible to study more population.***

3- What population does this sample represent in terms of population coverage?

Answer: ***as indicated in the text, Besat University Clinic receives a relatively small population of two million people in Kerman, and this was one of the limitations of our study. (line 60, 61,166)***

4- For what reason and to evaluate the relationship between which variables, logistic regression analysis was performed?

Answer: ***Corrected and logistic regression removed from the text(line95-97)***

Associate Editor 2:

Your manuscript has now passed through the review stage and is ready for revision.

Editorial comments
To ensure the Editor and Reviewers will be able to recommend that your revised manuscript is accepted, please pay careful attention to each of the comments that have been pasted underneath this email. This way we can avoid future rounds of clarifications and revisions, moving swiftly to a decision.

1. Please provide a point-by-point response to the comments
2. Please highlight all the amends on your manuscript
3. Use line numbering and page number in the next submission

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text***

4. English language is very poor and should be improved.

Answer: **The English text was revised and was improved.**

Other shortcomings
First of all, according to the AAP guideline, there is no recommendation regarding antiviral treatment in infected children with HBoV (it is a self-limited viral disease), so what is the clinical significance for isolating HBoV in respiratory specimens?

Answer: ***The clinical significance was added in the text and was shown in the*** *(line 44-48)*

Second, what is the clinical outcome of the studied cases in this study? Is there any morbidity or other important infectious or non-infectious complication in your cases? Third, did you investigate underlying diseases in your cases?

Answer: ***The outcome was added in the text(line126,127).***

The abstract
The Result section should be improved.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the abstract.***

For these statements: "There was no difference in the prevalence of the virus by gender.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text****(line 12, 13)*

The
13 prevalence was higher in children less than one year old. There was a significant
14 relationship between Bocavirus virus positivity and symptoms such as fever, otitis
15 media, diarrhea, and nausea and vomiting.", add percents (mentioning related fraction) and p-values

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(line 13-15)***

Line 16: rewrite this statement: "According to the findings, HBoV is a major pathogen ...". The authors only investigated one pathogen. So, avoid the study results could not be comparable and "major" is not meaningful.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(line17)***

The "Introduction" section should be improved with more information regarding specific HBoV treatment. Children 1 month to 5 years old with symptoms of upper airway infections.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(line 44-48)***

Line 65: "physician specializing in infectious diseases of children", did you mean "pediatric infectious diseases specialist". Correct it.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(line62)***

Line 83: "Multiplex and singleplex PCR", bold heading and align it properly.

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(line80)***

Lines 126-128: replace "Other children 30-30 months, 41-50 months, and 51-60 months 1 (7.7%) showed

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text122,123)***

positive results for Bocavirus virus, and no positive children aged 31-40 months were observed.", with "Among other age groups only one case was detected. No positive case was detected among children aged 31-40 months of old".

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(122,123)***

The discussion should be started with the study overall findings (remove lines 130 & 131).

Answer: ***Corrected and added in the text(line 130-132)***

Tables 2 & 3 should be aligned in the left-to-right direction.

Answer: ***Corrected***

Table 2, the first column should be clinical signs and symptoms.

Answer: ***Corrected***

Table 3, the first column should be age groups.

Answer: ***Corrected***

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 13 Dec 2021

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 13 Dec 2021

I have no further comments to add. I thank the authors for their very detailed responses to the comments.