

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54599

Date: 31/10/2025

Title: Non-Bacterial Post-Traumatic Meningitis due to Human Herpesvirus-6 in an Immunocompetent Patient

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath

Date: 31/10/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

This manuscript presents a valuable and illustrative case of HHV-6 meningitis in an immunocompetent adult after traumatic brain injury, emphasizing diagnostic approaches and therapeutic considerations. Its strengths lie in clinical relevance, innovative diagnostic discussion, and practical recommendations.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

- Novelty and Clinical Relevance:** The paper addresses a rare but important clinical scenario HHV-6 meningitis in an immunocompetent adult following traumatic brain injury. Highlighting such cases adds valuable insights, emphasizing the importance of considering viral etiologies in unexplained post-traumatic neurological deterioration.
- Comprehensive Diagnostic Approach:** The report emphasizes the role of multiplex PCR in diagnosing viral CNS infections, illustrating modern diagnostic advances and advocating for expanding viral panels in specific contexts. This demonstrates a clear understanding of current molecular diagnostic tools.
- Timely and Practical Recommendations:** The discussion on early lumbar puncture, the interpretation of CSF findings, and pragmatic antiviral management in resource-limited settings are practical takeaways that can influence clinical practice.
- Literature Integration:** The authors cite relevant literature supporting the discussion about HHV-6's clinical significance, reactivation, and management, providing a well-rounded context for the case.

Weaknesses and Areas for Improvement:

- Clarity and Readability:**
There are occasional grammatical and syntactical issues, such as inconsistent punctuation and sentence structure that disrupt the flow. For example, on page 4, the sentence: "*Therapeutic management of HHV-6 CNS infection remains challenging. Ganciclovir and 122 foscarnet are the recommended first-line antivirals [4,12]. Their absence in our setting highlights 122 disparities in access to essential treatments [15].*" could be clearer with sentence restructuring.
- Typographical and Formatting Errors:**
The presence of numerical artifacts within the text (e.g., "in many ICUs," immediately followed by "LP is delayed or avoided in post-traumatic patients...") suggests possible extraction issues from the PDF. Figure captions and references to figures should be consistently formatted for clarity.
- Incomplete Context and Clarity on the Title and Abstract:**
As the provided pages do not include the abstract or full introduction, it's difficult to assess whether the manuscript provides adequate background and motivation upfront.

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4. References Formatting:

The references are numbered but lack bullet or reference list formatting in the provided excerpt. Ensure references are formatted according to the journal's style.

5. Minor Content Clarifications:

Clarify the clinical decision-making process regarding empirical antiviral therapy, especially in resource-limited settings, to strengthen the practical applicability. Briefly elaborate on the possibility of HHV-6 reactivation versus chromosomal integration to contextualize PCR findings better.

Recommendation for the Author:

- Conduct thorough grammatical and typographical editing for clarity and coherence.
- Enhance the presentation of figures and references.
- Expand briefly on the diagnostic challenges and the distinction between reactivation and chromosomal integration of HHV-6.
- Ensure the abstract, introduction, and conclusion are comprehensive and aligned with the case report.