

Juln 21, 2024

Dear Editors:

RE: NO. 96705

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank all the reviewers for the helpful comments, which have helped us to greatly improve our manuscript. I am here submitting the revised version of our manuscript entitled “**Omadacycline in the treatment of patients with scrub typhus: a report of three cases**”, for its publication in “**World Journal of Clinical Cases**”.

In the revised version of our manuscript, we have now carefully addressed all concerns raised by the reviewers and the editor and provided point-to-point response to reviewers.

We have confidence to believe that the quality of the revised paper has been significantly improved, thanks so much to reviewers and editors for the instructive comments and suggestions. It is our hope that the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

Once again, thank you for evaluating our manuscript, providing thoughtful and carefully considered feedback, and for acknowledging the tremendous amount of work that went into the draft of the manuscript.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure: point-to-point response to reviewers

Response to reviewers

Reviewer #1

1. The authors have mentioned in Abstract line 34 "after several days of treatment". Please specify days of treatment to make it clear in the abstract.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We have listed the specific treatment days based on the actual conditions of the patients. In the cases we reported, the patients showed symptom improvement in two days, especially with regard to fever symptoms.

2. Targeted NGS is indeed effective method for diagnosis of scrub typhus but it is not economic to use in the rural areas and what is the accuracy of this method.

Response: Thank you for your comment. mNGS is a method capable of detecting multiple pathogenic microorganism infections, and there are numerous reports of mNGS being used to diagnose scrub typhus^[1-3]. tNGS can target specific pathogens and is relatively inexpensive. Studies have indicated that highly multiplexed targeted sequencing is highly specificity and cost-effective in monitoring infectious diseases, it requires low specimen demands. It could become the primary disease surveillance method in resource-limited areas^[4]. Therefore, given the patient's characteristic symptom of eschars, we chose targeted sequencing technology, which demonstrated good sensitivity and specificity. However, for patients without this typical symptom, perhaps mNGS is a better choice due to its broader detection range. We plan to collect more cases and data in our future work to further evaluate the diagnostic performance of tNGS for scrub typhus.

We acknowledge that while targeted NGS is an effective method for diagnosing scrub typhus, its cost-effectiveness in rural areas is a concern. We recommend placing greater emphasis on clinical symptoms in extremely resource-limited areas. For patients with a history of outdoor activities, fever, especially those presenting with eschars, scrub typhus should be highly suspected. The Weil-Felix test, a cheap and simple method, can be employed in such areas.

3. The omadacycline can be the alternate for the treatment of scrub typhus but the

study on large group with different age group should be verified.

Response: Thank you for your constructive suggestions. We agree that further research on a larger cohort with different age groups is essential to verify the efficacy of omadacycline in the treatment of scrub typhus. We plan to conduct additional studies to gather more comprehensive data and provide more robust evidence for its use in varied populations.

4. Furthermore the work is appreciable as very few groups around the globe is working on scrub typhus and authors have used advanced technologies for the diagnosis of scrub typhus and provided alternate method for the treatment of scrub typhus. More research should be performed on this neglected diseases for controlling the febrile infection.

Response: Thank you very much for your affirmation and appreciation of our work. We will continue to collect more case data in our future work to conduct more in-depth research, including epidemiology, comparison of the effects of omadacycline in patients of different ages, convenient diagnosis of scrub typhus, and other aspects. We hope to provide more references for the diagnosis and treatment of scrub typhus.

References

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