

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58338

Title: *A Case Control Study of Haemoglobin Level in Children Aged 2 Years to 5 Years with a Lower Respiratory Tract Infection in a Tertiary Care Centre*

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

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strength of the study:

- The study addresses an important pediatric public health problem
- A well-defined case control design with appropriate comparison groups was used
- Relevant laboratory investigations including haemoglobin, ferritin, CRP, and peripheral smear were included
- Ethical approval and informed consent were obtained
- Statistical analysis was appropriate and clearly presented
- Results are clinically meaningful and supported by data
- The discussion is supported with relevant literature

Weakness of the study:

- The study was conducted at a single center with a limited sample size
- Dietary factors and socioeconomic variables were not analyzed in detail
- Serum ferritin may be influenced by inflammation despite CRP assessment
- Some grammatical and formatting errors require correction
- The manuscript contains a few repetitive sections
- Matching methodology needs clearer description
- Findings cannot establish a causal relationship because of the study design

Reviewers Comments:

This manuscript evaluates the association between haemoglobin levels and lower respiratory tract infection in children using a case control design. The topic is clinically relevant and the methodology is appropriate for the study objective. The inclusion of haemoglobin, serum ferritin, CRP, peripheral smear, and radiological findings provides a comprehensive assessment. Ethical clearance has been obtained and informed consent from parents has been clearly mentioned, which strengthens the ethical quality of the study. The statistical analysis is adequate and the conclusions are generally supported by the results. However, the manuscript requires careful grammatical editing and improvement in formatting to enhance readability. Some sections are repetitive and can be shortened. The limitations, including the single-center setting, relatively small sample size, and lack of assessment of nutritional and socioeconomic factors, should be discussed more clearly. Overall, this is a useful study that contributes meaningful evidence and is suitable for publication after minor revision.

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The manuscript appears to be an original research study, and no obvious evidence of prior publication was identified from the submitted version. There are no apparent signs of substantial duplication. However, a standard plagiarism similarity check should be performed by the journal before publication to confirm originality and ensure compliance with publication ethics.