

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58604

Title: Pediatric Empyema Thoracis: A Two-Year Prospective Observational Study of Clinical Profile, Microbiological Spectrum, and Surgical Outcomes at a Tertiary Care Centre in South India

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 prospective study design improves the reliability of the findings
- A clear USG guided treatment protocol is well described
- Clinical, microbiological and surgical outcomes are comprehensively evaluated
- Appropriate statistical analysis supports the study findings
- Ethical approval and informed consent are clearly documented
- Results are presented with informative tables and figures
- The study has practical value for pediatric surgical practice

Weakness of the study:

- The sample size is relatively small for broad conclusions
- Being a single centre study limits generalizability
- Follow up duration is limited to three months
- Randomization was not performed due to the study design
- Molecular diagnostic methods were not included
- Some sections of the discussion are unnecessarily lengthy
- Minor grammatical and formatting corrections are still required

Reviewers Comments:

This manuscript presents a well conducted prospective observational study evaluating a structured ultrasonography guided management protocol for pediatric empyema thoracis. The objectives are clearly defined, and the methodology is appropriate for the research question. The results are systematically presented with relevant statistical analysis and are supported by useful tables and figures. Ethical clearance from the Institutional Ethics Committee and informed consent from parents or guardians have been appropriately mentioned, which strengthens the ethical quality of the work. The manuscript is generally well written, although a few grammatical errors, repetitive statements, and formatting inconsistencies should be corrected to improve readability. The limitations, including the small sample size, single centre design, and short follow up period, have been acknowledged by the authors. Overall, the study provides clinically meaningful findings that may help guide management in similar healthcare settings. The manuscript is suitable for publication after minor revision.

Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:

The manuscript appears to be an original prospective observational study, and there is no obvious indication of duplicate publication within the submitted version. No clear signs of plagiarism were noted during review. However, the journal should complete a standard plagiarism similarity check before publication to ensure originality and compliance with publication ethics.