

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 ID: JP085

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript presents a prospective observational study on the clinical profile, microbiological spectrum, and outcomes of a USG-guided stage-based management protocol for pediatric empyema thoracis. The study addresses an important pediatric surgical problem and demonstrates that ultrasound-guided treatment provides good clinical outcomes. The methodology is appropriate, and the results are presented clearly.

Strength:

1. The study focuses on an important pediatric health problem.
2. A prospective study design improves the quality of the findings.
3. A clear USG-guided treatment protocol was followed for all patients.
4. Appropriate statistical analysis was performed.
5. The results are well presented with useful tables and figures.

Weakness:

1. The study included only 35 patients, which limits generalization of the findings.
2. It was conducted at a single centre.
3. The follow-up period was limited to only three months.
4. Long-term lung function and quality-of-life outcomes were not assessed.
5. No randomized comparison with other treatment protocols was included.

Overall assessment:

This manuscript provides useful evidence supporting a USG-guided stage-based management approach for pediatric empyema thoracis. The study is clinically relevant, well organized, and the conclusions are supported by the data. After minor revisions to improve language and discuss the study limitations more clearly, the manuscript is suitable for publication.

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Recommendation: Manuscript accepted for publication after minor revision.