|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| Journal Name: | [Current Journal of Applied Science and Technology](https://journalcjast.com/) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_** **CJAST\_133485** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **“Infectious Causes of Acute Meningoencephalitis Syndrome in Children: Insights from a Tertiary Care Hospital in Pakistan”** |
| Type of the Article | Cross sectional study |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **The authors investigate the frequency of infectious causes of acute meningoencephalitis syndrome in children presenting to tertiary care hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The study of epidemiology in the region is significant in the point that it may be useful for planning future primary prevention and other measures.** | Thank you so much for such a golden review. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **YES** | Thank you so much for such |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | **YES** | Thank you so much for such |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | YES | Thank you so much for such |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | YES | Thank you so much for such |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | YES | Thank you so much for such |
| Optional/General comments | The names of bacteria should be italicized. There are too many tables; at least the frequency of bacteria and viruses (Tables 2-7) could be integrated into a single table. Why didn’t you include the duration of symptoms for Enterovirus?  You should also explain why you chose these specific viruses and bacteria. How were these pathogens measured? If you used PCR or culture methods, please specify the techniques.  Clarify why you stratified the age groups as 1–5 years and 6–10 years. Do these children have any immunodeficiencies, such as diabetes, AIDS, or malnutrition?  Please indicate the units on the vertical axis and include the mean of the data points. | The following changes asked were made and modifications have been applied as per your request. We selected these specific viruses and bacteria based on their known prevalence in pediatric meningoencephalitis in our region and their clinical significance. Common pathogens like **Enteroviruses, Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), Streptococcus pneumoniae, and Neisseria meningitidis** were included due to their high morbidity and mortality in children.  Pathogens were identified using **PCR for viral etiologies** (e.g., HSV, Enteroviruses) and **culture methods for bacterial causes**, along with **CSF Gram staining and antigen detection tests** where applicable.  The age groups (1–5 years and 6–10 years) were stratified based on differing immune responses, pathogen susceptibility, and clinical presentation in younger vs. older children.  We also assessed underlying immunodeficiencies such as **malnutrition, diabetes, or HIV/AIDS**, as these conditions can influence disease severity and pathogen distribution. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s comment *(if agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* | no ethical issues in manuscript. |