Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in lymphocyte subsets in patients with Gullain-Barre syndrome treated with immunoglobulin

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Reviewer: I.N. van Schaik

Reviewer's report:

The authors have improved the manuscript slightly. I'm still concerned that the data are too thin to support the firm conclusions. The statement: "This study revealed that the changes in T and B-lymphocyte subsets, especially in CD4+ T-lymphocyte subsets, play an important role in the pathogenesis of AIDP, and in the mechanism of IVIG action against AIDP." should be toned down. That may be the case, but is far from proven by the data delivered.

The authors have not responded satisfactorily to my comment that the findings in the current study are difficult to understand because CD45RO+ cells are expected to outnumber CD45RA+ cells on adults in peripheral blood and that RA+ cells ad far as we now believe never return to a genuine RA+ state. This makes the finding of an increased percentage RA+ cells after IVIg treatment intriguing. All these issues are not addressed in e.g. the discussion.

I still think that the experiments are too simple to claim that they elucidate the pathogenesis of AIDP. The experiments are nicely done and have interesting results but the interpretation is hard in the context of existing knowledge. The paper’s discussion should be rewritten with this in mind.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests