Reviewer 1

The article “Epstein-Barr virus infection of pseudostratified nasopharyngeal epithelium disrupts epithelial integrity” represents a nice contribution for EBV infections pathophysiology. The idea of testing *in vitro* model is interesting, and the method of infection of the cells is known and widely used. I believe, that, the idea of disruption of the epithelium and facilitation of infections spread is correct. It is known for example, the risk of malignancy in smokers is 10 times higher when drinking strong alcoholic drinks. The alcohol melts polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and facilitates spread to the deeper epithelial layers. From the clinical point of view the idea is unique.

The article is well written, readable, and the amount of illustrations covers the readers demands.

I consider this rewritten version of the article interesting for readers.

→ Thank you very much for your encouraging comments. We hope our work inspires more people in this research field.