Reviewer's report

Title: Acute Mercury Poisoning: A Case Report

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2009

Reviewer: Larissa Velez

Reviewer's report:

major revisions
1. The conclusions talk about prevention and safety of the community, but no discussion relates to the other exposed daughter, the husband, and whether there was any cleaning/decontamination of a potentially hazardous home environment. If this mercury was volatilized, potentially the patient and any other family members were sent back to a harmful environment.
2. Why was NAC used as chelating agent? Not much literature supports this...were BAL/DMSA/DMPS not available?
3. was there an autopsy of the child who died?

Minor:
1. the language at parts is not completely correct, the syntax is odd.
2. authors alternate between the use of inorganic and metallic mercury for this agent - the correct one is metallic mercury; inorganic mercury is the term used for the mercurial salts.
3. How was the fever treated? Did the oxygen saturation go back to normal (96% is not that normal for a healthy 36 y/o)?
4. serine refers to urine?
5. Any follow up mercury levels? Is it possible that she came back with abdominal pain due to continued exposure to mercury?

Discretionary:
1. was this school notified so they increase their safety - at the end, this could have been avoided by a teacher paying attention to a hazardous chemical and making sure the students do not take this away.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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