Author's response to reviews

Title: Incidence and effects of Varicella Zoster Virus Infection on academic activities of medical undergraduates - a Five Year Follow-Up Study from Sri Lanka

Authors:

Suneth B Agampodi (sunethagampodi@yahoo.com)
Samath D Dharmaratne (samathd@pdn.ac.lk)
Vasanthi Thevanesam (vasanthithevanesam@yahoo.com)
Sameera Dassanayake (sdasanayake1981@yahoo.com)
Prabhashini Kumarihami (prabhashinikumarihamy@yahoo.com)
Ashani Rathnayaka (aashanirm@yahoo.com)

Version: 3 Date: 24 April 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

We have address to all quires raised by the editors and reviewers. Manuscript was rechecked and edited for language correction as well. Please see the following for point by point description of changes made. Please let me know if there are any other changes to be made.

Best wishes

Dr. Suneth Agampodi

**Reviewer's report 1:**
The authors have satisfactorily responded to my earlier points, except for:

**MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS**
Fig 1: Should be "Followed up for 5.5 years" not 0.5 years
The figure given for "susceptible for VZV infection" is incorrect (153-47=106)
*The figure was edited to include these changes*

**Reviewer's report 2:**
Recall bias may influence the results in two directions:
1. Respondents may have forgotten a minor episode of VZV infection, resulting in an underestimation (as stated by the authors);
2. Respondents may have misdiagnosed a rash as VZV infection, resulting in an overestimation.
*I have included these two types of biases in limitation section*

**Associate Editor comments:**
The revised manuscript did not incorporate some of the changes already made by the authors:
- VZC antibody test description and reference
- Explanations for « clinical appointments » and « professorial appointments »
It misses also the reference section!
*These description are included in the revised manuscript in results and methods sections. Reference section is also included*