Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 9 March 2010

**Reviewer:** Wim Opstelten

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major compulsory Revisions:**

The authors should discuss the following aspects:

1. The investigators did not perform a serological analysis at the end of the follow up. Would it be possible that some of the students had a subclinical VZV infection?
2. How reliable was the diagnosis varicella made? Could there be any recall bias?

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1. On page 7: it seems to me that the number 8,663 is wrong and should be corrected in 863 (i.e. 5.5 x 157).

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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.