Author's response to reviews

Title: Seroconversion and asymptomatic infections during oseltamivir prophylaxis against Influenza A H1N1 2009

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors of BMC Infectious Diseases,

We hereby submit our original Article titled “Seroconversion and asymptomatic infections during oseltamivir prophylaxis against Influenza A H1N1-2009” for your kind consideration.

The use of post-exposure oseltamivir prophylaxis to prevent the spread of influenza has been suggested in various settings, but some issues remain such as the presence of asymptomatic infections while on prophylaxis, and whether giving prophylaxis early in a pandemic will result in a marked increase in cases after cessation of prophylaxis.

Our cohort study of 237 individuals in a military community setting during the 2009 influenza A H1N1 pandemic addresses the above questions. We followed-up the cohorts with nasopharyngeal swabs during the outbreak to identify PCR-positive cases, and obtained three separate serum samples per individual to determine seroconversion to taken at three time points. Our results show that prophylaxis does not adversely increase subsequent infection rates upon cessation of prophylaxis before the epidemic’s peak. In addition, asymptomatic, non-infectious seroconversions occur during prophylaxis, which may confer protection against future infection.

We believe that our findings will have substantial implications for the response against future epidemics, as post-exposure prophylaxis remains an important strategy to consider in preventing the spread of influenza for essential services and in urgent situations.

We have selected your journal for our article because it is widely read by our target audience who include clinicians, public health professionals, and decision makers worldwide. We hope that you will consider our article, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any clarifications.

Sincerely,
Dr Vernon Lee
On behalf of the authors