Reviewer's report

**Title:** Pulmonary Melioidosis in Cambodia: a Prospective Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 January 2011

**Reviewer:** Paul Tambyah

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an important manuscript although it is not entirely novel

There are two very important pieces of data here:

1) the very high mortality which should be highlighted

and

2) the fact that only 2 patients completed the recommended course of treatment because of financial reasons

The authors should be commended for collecting cost data and putting it into perspective in terms of the incomes of the patients and how they had to sell property to pay for their treatment of this deadly infectious disease. This MUST be highlighted and perhaps could be the subject of an accompanying editorial if properly highlighted

there are some other less important issues:

1) What proportion of positive cultures were B.pseudomallei

2) the comparison between severe and non-severe cases was not helpful. It would be more useful to compare B.pseudomallei with other culture positive cases to help recognise the unique features of melioidosis

3) Are there published references to the entire respiratory pathogen study?

4) How were the sequelae of infection verified?

5) what was the initial treatment used? How does this compare with the WHO recommendations?

6) The striking finding that only 2 patients received the recommended course of treatment should be highlighted

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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 have received research support from Astra Zeneca