Reviewer’s report

Title: The changing seroepidemiology of enterovirus 71 infection among children and adolescents in Singapore

Version: 2 Date: 26 August 2011

Reviewer: Luan-Yin Chang

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Method: A “no serum” control served to determine the virus titer. We usually use the term “virus back-titration” rather than “no serum” control.

2. Results: The GMT of EV71 antibody appeared to be higher among primary school children aged 7–12 years in our study than those aged 6–12 years in the 1996–1997 study. You did not show the p value. Was it significant? You did not discuss the meaning or implication of the higher GMT among primary school children aged 7–12 years in this study.

3. Discussion: Population-based sampling may suffer from unacceptably low response rates due to parental concerns about taking blood samples from their children. So you did it in an easy way by using laboratory-based sampling. Most studies of the seroprevalence was performed by population-based sampling and we have to try our best to increase response rates.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'