Reviewer's report

**Title:** Relationship between the population incidence of febrile convulsions and influenza and respiratory syncytial virus seasonal epidemics in young children in Sydney, Australia, 2003-2010: a descriptive study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 30 March 2011

**Reviewer:** Virginia Wong

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a study of the incidence of febrile convulsions with relation to 2 viruses, influenza and RSV in Australia.

My comments:

The data had been retrospectively retrieved from 2 administrative sources in the NSW Emergency Department, with only provisional diagnosis of convulsions and only proxy measures for influenza-like illness or bronchiolitis were obtained.

The authors should explain the reliability of these data-

1. type of febrile convulsion- simple, atypical, recurrent'

2. Any underlying neurodevelopmental disorders in this cohort to explain for the proneness of febrile seizures

3. For influenza related febrile seizures, subsequent development of influenza encephalopathy can ensue. can the authors report the number of influenza encephalopathy in this cohort?

4. What was the routine microbiological workup for common viruses in the ED setting in Australia for those presenting with the provisional diagnosis of convulsions as this can affect the incidences.

5. The risk of fever precipitated convulsion is high for those with underlying epilepsy or neurodisabilities, can the authors report for this cohort?

6. Other viruses can also be associated with a higher risk of febrile convolution in infants eg HH6. Can the authors explain for the possibility of other viruses beign a contributory factor in this cohort ratehr than influenza?

**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.