Author's response to reviews

Title: Encephalitis temporally associated with live attenuated Japanese encephalitis vaccine: Four case reports

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to reviewers’ comments

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We thank the reviewers who carefully reviewed our manuscript. The following is a summary of the revisions we made in response to the reviewers’ comments.

Reviewer #1:

General comments

1. Reply: We have interpreted three possibilities of the events as reviewer’s suggestions in the beginning of the discussion section (Page 7 Line22-Page 8).

2. Reply: We totally agree reviewer’s comments. As the batch numbers of the vaccine was not clearly remembered by the guardians of four cases during our further interview. It made our in-depth investigation difficult (Page 8 Lines 9-11). On the other hand, JEV-IgM ELISA for the patients was repeated and reformed both by the local hospital and by the institute (Page 5 Lines11-12).

Specific comments

3. Reply: We have rewritten the conclusions as reviewer’s suggestions (Page 3 Lines 14-19)

4. Reply: We have input additional 3 related references (Page 4 Line 14)

5. Reply: Yes, we have added one reference of the ELISA used for diagnosis in our study (Page 5, Line 8).

7. Reply: We have supplied the exact date of the vaccine was given (Page 6, Line 15)

8. Reply: No case had had previous doses of JE vaccination history. Four cases all had been vaccinated with a first dose (Page 5 Line 21).

9. Reply: Limited by the medical resources in the local hospitals, thus, no other testing was conducted on this and other three patients to investigate other etiologies.

10. Reply: Yes, we have rewritten it to more clearly interpret and explain the findings (Page 7 Line22-Page 8).

11. Reply: As to interpret our findings more clearly as the reviewer’s suggestions, we have deleted this paragraph related with adverse events post vaccination.

12. Reply: We have deleted this unclear sentence.

13. Reply: We have deleted this unclear sentence.

14. Reply: We have deleted this unclear sentence.

15. Reply: We have rewritten the sentence as the reviewer’s suggestions (Page 9 Lines 3-9).

_Minor Essential Revisions_

16. Reply: We have revised the title.

17. Reply: We have reworded the sentence (Page 3 Lines 7-8).

18. Reply: We have replaced “the” with “a” (Page 4 Line 2).

19. Reply: We have replaced “patients” with “infections” (Page 4 Line 22)

20. Reply: We have replaced “JE-epidemic” with “JE-endemic” (Page 5 Line 2)

21. Reply: JE cases occur during every month of the year, but peak from July to October in the area (Page 5 Lines 4-5).
22. Reply: We have revised the sentence as “At the admission, she had a temperature of 38.3°C, and was drowsiness. Neck stiffness, positive Kernig’s sign, convulsion and hypertonia were also presented.” (Page 6 Lines 3-4)

23. Reply: We revised the sentence as “At hospital admission, he had a temperature of 39°C, vomiting, neck stiffness and positive Kernig's sign, and then convulsion, and ultimately slipped into a coma”. (Page 6 Lines 7-8).

24. Reply: We have deleted this unclear sentence.

25. Reply: We revised the sentence as” Severe meningeal irritation signs were also presented. She then developed abnormal muscle tone, and finally fell into unconsciousness.” (Page 6 Lines 13-15).

26. Reply: We have deleted the word “Unfortunately”.

27. Reply: We have deleted this sentence

*Discretionary Revisions:*

Reply: We have tried to gain this data, however it is difficult for us to get the exact information of the number of JE vaccine doses given in the study area.

**Reviewer #2:**

1. Reply: We have revised the title

2. Reply: In our surveillance, we detected 17 adult JE cases (≥15 years older). No one had recent JE vaccination history. Based on this limited data, it is difficult to conclude whether the adverse effects by live attenuated JE vaccine occurred in children only or not.