Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 28 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Susan Hills

**Reviewer's report:**

This report has improved considerably from the first version, but additional revisions are necessary prior to publication.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

**Background**

1. Page 6, line 11: JE was confirmed by one or more of the following: a JE virus (JEV)-specific..........., or virus isolation from serum........"
2. Page 6, line 17-18: Do you mean JEV ELISA was “conducted by the local hospital and by the institute?” If it was repeated by both these facilities, who did the original testing?
3. Page 6, line 18: What institute?

**Case presentations**

4. The order of the 1st and 2nd sentences in this section should be reversed.
5. Page 7, line 11: The issue of convulsions is still unclear. Had the patient had convulsion(s) prior to hospitalization, did she have a witnessed convulsion during hospitalization, did she have status epilepticus?
6. Page 7, line 16: The wording about convulsions is unclear. Did he develop convulsions? Had a convulsion during the hospitalization?
7. Page 8, line 20: As mentioned in the authors’ responses to the prior review, it would be helpful to note that testing for other aetiologies of meningoencephalitis was not conducted

**Discussion**

8. Page 9, line 19: a personal communication should not be used unless the authors have both communicated with this person and got permission to use a statement as a personal communication. This is not the case for this “personal communication”. Information available in published literature should always be used in preference to personal communications. Please remove the personal communication and use published literature to reference this statement (e.g. WHO’s JE position paper published in 2006).
9. Page 9, line 21-22: It is very concerning that no public health investigation was undertaken with 4 possible adverse events occurring in temporal and
geographical proximity. Were there other reports of adverse events following live, attenuated JE vaccine in other areas of China at a similar time?

Table 1
10. Replace “JEV-MAC ELISA in CSF” with “JEV IgM antibodies in CSF”
11. Replace “JEV-MAC ELISA in serum” with “JEV IgM antibodies in serum”

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract
12. Page 4, line 5: “investigation of” not “investigation for”

Background
13. Page 5: Instead of reference 6, it would be better to use a reference with primary data such as Sohn et al, 1999 (Vaccine)
14. Page 6, line 8: “The two” not “Two”
15. Page 6, line 19: Delete the word tested. i.e. “……investigated 36 (43%) were positive…..”

Case presentations
16. Page 7, line 11: drowsy (not drowsiness)
17. Page 7, line 12: present (not presented)
18. Page 7, line 19: no need to include “living in a rural area”. It has already been stated that the districts are rural and this phrase does not provide additional information.
19. Page 7, line 19: The word prolonged does not seem to be necessary. It appears the fever was present at most 4 days, similar to case 1.
20. Page 8, line 1 and line 6: present (not presented)
21. Page 8, line 2: became unconscious would be better than “fell into unconsciousness”

Conclusions
22. Page 13, line 15: investigation of (not for)

Authors’ Contributions
23. Page 14, line 14: Unclear what “performed the experiments” means? Did they conduct the laboratory testing?

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

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 declare that I have no competing interests