Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of community-acquired and nosocomial rotavirus gastroenteritis in the pediatric population of Western Europe: a scoping review

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2011

Reviewer: Nobumichi Kobayashi

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

This manuscript is well written about the current situation of rotavirus gastroenteritis in European countries and provides useful information to promote rotavirus vaccines. Although general methodology appears to be appropriate, there are some concerns in analyzed data described in the manuscript.

1. In the Result section, incidence of RVGE is described depending on community-acquired RVGE and nosocomial RVGE. How did the author discriminate the community-acquired RVGE and nosocomial RVGE from the literature? What are definitions of these two RVGE? Authors described that “Nosocomial RVGE was generally defined as disease occurring between 48 to 72 hours”, however, it is not certain how authors treat in this review study such definition in individual articles. Authors should check it in the literatures used for the present review, and discuss it in the text.

2. Hospitalization due to RVGE may contain cases who visited hospital due to severe diarrhea and thus were admitted to ward immediately, and other cases who were admitted because of non-RVGE disease, but had RVGE during hospitalization (true nosocomial RVGE). The former group should be included as community-acquired RVGE. It is preferable to describe whether such strict discrimination had been done in the articles which authors used for the present review study.

3. In general, in most epidemiologic studies on rotavirus, genotypes are determined for a part of samples (representative, randomly selected samples), because of the cost and technical burden for RT-PCR. Genotyping data on all the collected RV-positive samples might not be published in so many articles. Please check and confirm how much rate of the collected samples were genotyped, in each study. Thus, the genotype distribution should be described that the data was obtained in such a limited condition.

4. In page 15, emerging rotavirus serotypes: There is a description on G9 RV. However, G12 is not referred. Prevalence of G12 is shown in a Figure. Authors should discuss emergence and prevalence of G12 rotavirus strains in Western Europe.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.