Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiology and clinical presentation of the four human parainfluenza virus types

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2012

Reviewer: Nan-Chang Chiu

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Discretionary Revisions

Clarifying the following questions would make this paper more valuable.

1. The typical clinical presentation of parainfluenza virus infection is croup that will cause hoarseness in patients frequently. However, only 4% of HPIV-positive patients in this report were recorded to have this presentation. How to explain that?

2. Diarrhea is a common associated symptom in children with respiratory infectious diseases. More detail evaluation of age distribution between HPIV-positive and HPIV-negative patients with diarrhea would be helpful.

3. Comparison with regional parainfluenza virus infection data is important for interpretation the epidemiology results. Some of the references are not suitable. Actually, several parainfluenza virus infection papers have been published in recent few years that are worth quoted.

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

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.