Reviewer's report

Title: Seroepidemiology of human enterovirus71 and coxsackievirusA16 among children in Guangdong province, China

Version: 2 Date: 8 May 2013

Reviewer: Li Wei Ang

Reviewer's report:

Revisions are sought in the following sections:

a) Materials and Methods

• It is not clear how the “cohort” study was conducted. There are no details provided on where the samples came from (childcare centres, households?), how they were collected, the sampling design and selection criteria (if any), etc.
• Was there a sample size determined for this study?
• Among the “healthy” children, was there information gathered on whether they had been infected with HFMD previously?
• Instead of computing GMT of all samples (there is no justification to assigning a value of 4 to the seronegative samples in the analysis), it would be better to confine the analysis on GMT to seropositive samples with antibody titers > 8.
• What was the statistical test used for comparison of the GMT by year and age group?

b) Results

• A table on the demographic profile of the children enrolled in the study by year could be provided.

c) Discussion

• There is a need to discuss the prevalence trends together with the epidemiological trends of HFMD cases reported in Guangdong province.
• More information on the HFMD outbreaks including the age profile and the associated main predominant circulating enterovirus type(s) based on laboratory surveillance is warranted to associate with the findings of the study.
• How does the issue of cross reactivity of EV71 and CA16 affect the interpretation and use of the results?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.