Reviewer's report

Title: Respiratory virus surveillance in hospitalised pneumonia patients on the Thailand-Myanmar border

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Reviewer: Ram K Chandyo

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The purpose of this manuscript is to study on epidemiology of respiratory virus burden among convenient samples of refugee pneumonia patient mainly children less than five years of age. The results from this survey provided further evidence on virus etiology as a major cause of pneumonia particularly in children.

I have following minor comments that I would like the authors to address:

1. A total of 708 patient episodes were recruited during more than two years of surveillances period. Although, the authors mentioned that two weeks gap was consider for new episode of pneumonia, repeated cases are common among children particularly pneumonia with wheezing. So it will be interesting to see how many patients actually contributed for this 708 episodes and how repeated illnesses were adjusted in the analysis.

2. Antibiotic uses within 14 days of illnesses were also common (46.5% among < 1 yrs) in this community so what are the difference on epidemiology of virus load based on whether the child received antibiotic or not.

3. As the study was conducted in the refugee camp, some more detail like how NPA samples were handle, time from NPA sample collection to PCR and name of laboratory where PCR was done etc also required. Also in the laboratory method section, the authors mentioned following text “Specimens were considered positive if a virus PCR results (cT values 35-39)…….. Please provide reference here.

4. The isolation of viruses among pneumonia patients and consider it as a sole cause of disease need further explanation. Some virus may be present in NPA samples of otherwise healthy kids which need to explore while discussing pathogenicity of these viruses.

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