Reviewer's report

Title: Autoimmune Causes of Encephalitis Syndrome in Thailand: Prospective Study of 103 Patients

Version: 1 Date: 21 April 2013

Reviewer: Bryan Young

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Major compulsory revisions:
1. A more precise definition of encephalitis, or, better, encephalitic syndrome, is needed along with better specified inclusion and exclusion criteria. The present definition is not adequate, a more adequate definition would include an acute/sub acute/ or rarely, chronic brain dysfunction related to viral infection or immunological reaction, with exclusion of direct infection of the brain by bacteria, fungi or parasites (it would appear that TB and fungi WERE included here in the Results, and should not have been). In addition encephalopathy secondary to sepsis or systemic inflammatory response syndrome should be excluded (it does not appear to have been). Multiple sclerosis is not usually considered an encephalitis, nor is neuromyelitis optica.

2. MRI findings should be presented.

Minor revisions:
1- It would be helpful if absolute numbers of each condition were given along with the percentages.

2- Were the lupus cases due to vasculitis or other cause? Many cases appear to not be vasculitic in nature, but to auto-antibodies.

3- Do the authors recommend a strategy for approach? What are the clues that a patient has en encephalitic syndrome?

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.