Reviewer’s report

Title: Human immunodeficiency virus infection is a risk factor for cerebral malaria in children in Uganda: a case-control study

Version: 7 Date: 16 December 2010

Reviewer: Jean-Pierre Van geertruyden

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have well responded to the remarks. Two remarks are remaining in relation to the assessment of immune suppression as a risk factor:

Abstract:
Delete this sentence:
“The association was seen among HIV-positive children with a relatively normal or mild immune suppression compared to those with moderate to severe suppression”

This statement was not a finding as power to assess this aspect was to low to draw any conclusions

Discussion:
Replace this sentence
Despite the low numbers, lower CD4 cell count was not associated with cerebral malaria. This finding is consistent with findings from a longitudinal study in Malawi where they found that lower CD4 cell counts were associated with higher incidences of pneumonia, sepsis, and tuberculosis but not of malaria(33)

with:
Due to the low number of HIV infected children in our controls, we found no association between cerebral malaria and low CD4 cell count. A longitudinal study in Malawi has already indicated that lower CD4 cell counts were associated with higher incidences of pneumonia, sepsis, and tuberculosis but not of malaria(33).

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'