Reviewer's report

Title: Intussusception among Japanese children: an epidemiologic study using an administrative database

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Reviewer: Kong Boo B Phua

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This is a well written article with data on large number of children up to the age of 18 who had been admitted for intussusception.

In the study, the period and duration during which the data was collected is not clear. Please kindly amend this major deficit before the article can be published.

This is the largest study carried out in Japan. However, in the literature there is at least one large study of intussusception in Taiwan by Chen SC, Wang JD, Hsu HY, et al: Epidemiology of childhood intussusception and determinants of recurrence and operation: analysis of national health insurance data between 1998 and 2007 in Taiwan. Pediatr Neonatol 2010,51(5):285-91. This study found a total of 8217 intussusception-related hospitalizations in 7541 children. It is not strictly true to claim that this study is the largest survey of childhood intussusception in Asia.

In the literature incidence of intussusception prior to rotavirus vaccine has been reported in Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan, just to named a few. Therefore, it is not strictly true that the data on incidence of intussusception before the introduction of new rotavirus vaccines in Eastern countries are very limited.

The period during which the data was collected is not clear. In the section on Abstract it was mentioned “between 2007 and 2008”. In the section on Method “Data are collected for 6-month periods (between July 1 and December 31) each year. In 2008, data were compiled from approximately 2.9 million inpatients at 855 hospitals”. Does it mean that data was collected between July 1 and December 31 of year 2007 and 2008?

In the section on Background, “the incidence of intussusception before the introduction of new rotavirus vaccines. However, most of these studies have been carried out in Western countries, and data on the incidence of intussusception in Eastern countries are very limited”. This is not strictly true as, to name a few, there is literature on incidence of intussusception in Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

In the section on Abstract, “Conclusions: This is currently the largest survey of childhood intussusception in Asia using a standardised case definition.” There is

In the section on Criteria “Readmissions shortly after discharge (e.g., within a week) may involve both cases with insufficient reduction and with true recurrence.” “Thus, we considered the first admission and the immediate readmission to be separate events”. In the eventual calculation, was the patient with readmission counted as one or two or more patients?

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.