Reviewer’s report

Title: The burden of rotavirus gastroenteritis and nosocomial rotavirus gastroenteritis among children aged <6 years in Japan: A multi-hospital, retrospective, epidemiological survey

Version: 2 Date: 17 October 2012

Reviewer: Martin Petric

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript consists of a survey of rotavirus gastroenteritis in children under 6 years of age in 8 regional core hospitals in Japan. The data are based on hospital chart reviews selected by disease classification and diagnostic test results. The findings are presented in 3 tables and 3 figures. These are analysed in terms of acute gastroenteritis cases, rotavirus gastroenteritis cases and nosocomial rotavirus cases. These findings are then further analysed by age of the patients and by cumulative age distributions. The seasonal distribution of rotavirus gastroenteritis is presented in a graph and finally a detailed analysis is made of nosocomial rotavirus gastroenteritis by age, duration of hospitalization, nursing care and complexity of isolation care.

Findings of interest include the effects of age of the patient, nursing allocation and duration of hospitalization on nosocomial rotavirus gastroenteritis. Also of interest is the costing of rotavirus gastroenteritis especially in the case of nosocomial infections.

Revisions:
Results, paragraph 3, line 7: change table 2 to figure 2.
Discussion, paragraph 2, line 3: change years to months.

The seasonal incidence does not differ from that reported over the past several decades. It would have been interesting had there been any difference shown for seasonal incidence from north to south.

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 have no competing interests