Reviewer's report

Title: Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis: Results of the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program and review of the literature.

Version: 6  Date: 29 October 2005

Reviewer: Benedikt Weissbrich

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors have responded adequately to the issues raised by this reviewer and the paper is ready for publication. Only some discretionary revisions are suggested.

Major Compulsory Revisions

None

Minor Essential Revisions

None

Discretionary Revisions

1. Page 12/13: The inclusion of the risk estimation per measles cases in Canada in this version of the manuscript is very much appreciated. In fact, it underlines that the risk of SSPE is considerably higher than previously thought (see ref. 1: 8.5 SSPE cases per million cases of measles infection). The data from Canada are in line with a paper just published about SSPE epidemiology in the USA (Bellini, J Infect Dis, 2005, 192:1686–93). It is suggested, that the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 13 is changed to reflect the discrepancy between old and new data, for example “… is consistent with other current estimates in developed countries (See Table 2), but is considerably higher than formerly reported [1].”

2. If table 4 is to remain as supplementary data file as in this version of the paper, then this should be indicated when referring to table 4 (page 16).

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests