Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between television viewing and language development in Thai infants and toddlers

Version: 2 Date: 11 September 2008

Reviewer: Simon Rueckinger

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The failure to find a significant association between TV viewing and language development should not be emphasized too much, since the numbers presented are small and thus statistical power is low. If there is an association between TV viewing and language development, the authors were unlikely to detect this association with sample sizes like these.

Given the proportions of delayed language development observed in this study (5% (4/78) for >=2 hrs TV and 10% (12/125) for <2 hrs TV) and 78 vs. 125 cases to be compared, the statistical power to detect an association would be about 23%. This is far below the convenient 80% or 90% and should be discussed.

The title and the first sentence of the conclusions in the abstract should rather mention some of the findings in the study which are really supported by the data (e.g. the high proportion of TV watching or the attitudes of the parents).

Gender is associated with language development and may be associated with time spent on TV (potential confounding). The analyses presented in Table 2 would be more appropriately carried out using a multivariate approach, such as logistic regression (where delayed language development is the outcome of interest and at least gender and time spent on TV are explanatory variables). This would allow assessing the association of TV watching and language development independently of potential confounders such as gender. However, the small number of children with delayed language development (n=16) may result in problems with parameter estimation.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests