Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiological Characteristics of Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis in Nanchang China: A Retrospective Study.

Version: 6 Date: 14 October 2013

Reviewer: Hiroyuki Torisu

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is valuable because of giving us epidemiological data on ADEM in Chinese population. The limitation of this study, however, should be clearly described to make us understand the characteristics of the data.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1 Authors should refer to the definition of ADEM and accuracy of diagnosis of ADEM.
2 Authors should add how to find and get the information on ADEM patients to ‘method’ in abstract.
3 Authors should describe the disease corresponding to the mentioned ICD codes in ‘Materials and Methods’.
4 Authors described in Materials and Methods as follows; ‘The searched diseases included ADEM, acute myelitis, acute disseminated encephalitis, encephalomyelitis, and cerebrospinal meningitis.’. What does this sentence imply?
5 Authors should describe the definition and specific difference of rural and urban.
6 In Conclusions, authors described ‘Vaccination was not directly associated with onset of ADEM.’. What does the word ‘directly’ imply?
7 The statements as below are not well sustained. The authors should show evidence or revise the expression. These statements seem too assertive.
    7.1 In Abstract, “Incidences of ADEM are not different between genders, races, or regions,...”.
    7.2 In Introduction, “Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM) which is an autoimmune disease characterized by idiopathic central nervous demyelination and inflammatory infection affects several areas in the central nervous system.”
    7.3 In Introduction, “Incidence rates of ADEM are not different between genders, races, or regions [7, 8].”
    7.4 In Introduction, “It has good prognosis and commonly occurs in the tropics, but rarely in temperate zones.”
    7.5 In Discussion, “No evidence suggests that vaccination is linked with the onset of ADEM”. Authors should add the phrase‘ in China’.
7.6 In Discussion, “Revaccination is more risky than primary vaccination [31].”

8 In Abstract and other parts, authors should change the expression ‘annual average incidence’ into other expression like ‘average annual incidence’.

9 The software ‘EPIDATA3.1’ needs the information of the source.

Minor Essential Revisions
Authors should check the following expressions.

In Data collection
1st paragraph line 2: an d

In Discussion
4th paragraph line 4: parotitis, urticaria?
4th paragraph line 7: pneumonia mycoplasma#
2nd paragraph line 12: Banwel?.
5th paragraph line 1: AMDE?
5th paragraph

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.