Reviewer's report

**Title:** Community-based infant hearing screening in a developing country: parental uptake of follow-up services

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 May 2008

**Reviewer:** Christine Yoshinaga-Itano

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor Essential Revisions:

The authors should insert in the Participant description, the number of babies screened, the number of babies referred and the percent referred.

Tables 1 & 2 should be referred to, within the text. The tables should be included in the Discussion section of the results of the study.

In the first sentence in Conclusions of the abstract, "no" should be changed to "number". Abbreviations within the text when first used such as PCEHL should first include all words with (PCEHL). Page. 3 PECHL should be PCEHL. Same comment for BCG, page four, TEOAE and AABR, page 6.

This article addresses an important issue and provides data from a screening program in a developing country. The findings are important both for other developing countries, but also for the developed world that has an increasing number of immigrant families with infants who have congenital hearing loss. Developing cultural competence in universal newborn hearing screening programs/early hearing detection and intervention programs is essential for both developing countries and the developed world. It was intriguing that families whose children were not born in hospitals were more likely to follow-through with additional testing than those whose children were born in hospitals.

The study provides some thought-provoking findings and challenges for overcoming cultural barriers, as well as socio-economic barriers. Despite difficulties in tracking individual infants and their families, 50 of the infants returned for the diagnostic audiologic evaluation. The paper does not indicate how many of these 50 infants were diagnosed with a hearing loss. This information should be included in the paper.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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