Reviewer's report

**Title:** Chronic virus infections supress atopy but not asthma in a set of children from a large Latin American city

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 22 September 2010

**Reviewer:** Philip P Bardin

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper reports a study examining the 'hygiene hypothesis' in an urban context. The paper is well written and generally clear.

I have only a few comments:

1. It would be useful to know if the asthma group could be better defined if the early childhood wheezers are excluded. This can easily be done by analysing the subgroup of children older than 6 years. They are much more likely to have 'real' asthma.

2. Lines 151-154 are unclear in what is explained and should be rewritten to ensure better clarity.

3. The reasons for the IgE cutoffs used in the study should be explained.

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

**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'