Reviewer's report

Title: Feasibility of provision of sustainable intra-dermal post exposure prophylaxis against rabies at primary care level - evidence from rural Haryana, India

Version: 3 Date: 1 April 2014

Reviewer: Madhusudana Shampur

Reviewer's report:

Comments to Authors

First of all I like to congratulate the authors for having done this study which is timely and much needed. Rabies deaths continue to occur in rural areas and one of the main reasons for this non availability of correct advice and PEP. In this context this work has shown that it is possible to provide a sustainable and economical PEP programme even in remote rural areas using available government funds.

Major compulsory revisions

The issue s that needs to be discussed in more detail are
1. Whether any patient had potential rabid bite ( at least based on history )
2. How long did the follow up was done and whether there were any rabies deaths in the group
3. Authors should also give a cost account of 20% of vaccines that was “ wasted”
4. The follow up is all the most required as some people were given delayed Vaccination This is all the more important as none of the subject had antibody estimation and sero-conversion rate is not known.

Other changes recommended are
1. Use the term “ up dated” instead of modified to describe TRC regimen
2. when you mention fatal ( in the abstract ) replace public health problem with “ disease”
3. Replace “mechanism” with “ Programme”

Background : Please look at the latest statistics and remove Thailand from high incidence country. There were hardly any human rabies deaths last year in Thailand

Also include the government of India’s decision to ban Semple vaccine in 2004
as per the verdict of Supreme court of India

Why in the cost of vaccination “Indian rupees” not mentioned?

In methods replace intradermal syringes by 1 ML plastic or Insulin syringes

Expand the word BPL for knowledge of international readers

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest