Author's response to reviews

Title: A hospital-based surveillance for Japanese encephalitis in Bali, Indonesia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Alison Z Shaw, Ph.D.
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BMC Medicine
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Dear Dr. Shaw,

Thank you very much for your decision to accept our manuscript “A hospital-based surveillance for Japanese encephalitis in Bali, Indonesia” for publication in the BMC Medicine. On behalf of all co-authors, I am sending the revised manuscript for your review and approval. In this revised manuscript, we made formatting changes to meet the requirements for publishing in the BMC Medicine. We also revised the manuscript based on those comments made by reviewers. In the following paragraphs, I would like to highlight those changes made on our manuscript (revised segments of text are italicized to facilitate review).

1). Page 2, line 4, we changed the sentence to “… we conducted a prospective, hospital-based surveillance with a catchment population of 599,120 children less than 12 years of age, in Bali, Indonesia, from July 2001 through December 2003.”

2). Page 6, line 2, we changed the sentence to “All pediatricians who work on infectious diseases from the 10 surveillance centers and a subset of general practitioners from sub-district health centers attended workshops …”

3). Page 9, line 1, we corrected the sentence and changed it to “The male-to-female ratio was 1.7:1 (P<0.05), the ratio, however, was 1:1.2 among cases <12 months old.”

4). Page 9, line 11-16, we explained that among 54 confirmed JE cases in the paired CSF group, 30% of cases were confirmed by their convalescence CSF samples. Thus, we presumed that another 14 JE cases would have been detected if a convalescence CSF had also been collected from the acute phase-only CSF group. We changed the sentences to “Among the 54 confirmed JE cases with paired CSF samples, 38 (70%) demonstrated anti-JEV IgM in both specimens. The remaining 16 (30%) cases had negative first samples but positive convalescence samples. Therefore, in addition to the 32 (70%) confirmed JE cases in the acute phase-only CSF group, 14 (30%) more JE cases would have been detected, if two sequential CSF samples had been collected for this group.”
5). Page 10, line 2-6, we revised the first sentence to explain the meaning of “no calendar month consistently had no JE cases reported during the 2.5-year study period.” Two more sentences were added that served as examples for the first sentence “For instance, JE cases were reported during February and March in 2002, but not in 2003; no case was reported in September and October of 2001, however, 4 and 8 cases were reported in the 2 calendar months of 2002 and 2003 respectively.” (line 4-6)

6). Page 10, line 9, we accepted the reviewer’s suggestion and changed the sentence to “…, a typical 1-month lag behind the usual rainy-season (November-April), which is required for JEV incubation and dissemination.”

7). Page 10, line 15, we accepted reviewer’s suggestion and changed the sentence to “Only one village produced more than a single JE case during the course of the study.”

8). Page 12, line 5, the sentence was changed to “…in placebo groups observed during vaccine trials in Asian countries…” as suggested by reviewer.

9). Page 14, line 14, the sentence was changed to “… due to insufficient surveillance data” as suggested by reviewer.

10). We changed format of all section headings; we removed running title from the title page.

11). We deleted all footnotes and added a new section of “Appendices” at the end of the manuscript.

12). A new section of “Competing interests” was added; some changes were made on sections of “Authors’ contributions” and “Acknowledgements”.

13). E-mail address of first author (Komang Kari) was changed with a new one; spelling mistake of name of one co-author (Hyei Kyung Kim) was corrected.

14). Title of image file was removed.

Please be informed that we uploaded revised manuscript and image file to the “BioMed Central”. Once again, we appreciate very much for your comments. We look forward to cooperating with you to finalize the editing of the manuscript.

Best regards,

Zhi-Yi Xu