Reviewer's report

Title: Viral pathogens in children hospitalized with features of central nervous system infection in a malaria-endemic region of Papua New Guinea

Version: 2 Date: 30 September 2014

Reviewer: suvasini sharma

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study and merits publication. I suggest the following revisions:

Major compulsory revisions:
1) Were the patients tested for HIV infection? This is important as HIV-malaria co-infection is also common in this setting. The HIV status of patients, if known, must be mentioned.
2) The authors should also briefly discuss the likely pathogenic mechanisms by which malaria co-infection leads to more complications and worse prognosis.

Minor essential revisions:
None

Discretionary revisions:
Were CT scans or MRI performed in any of the patients? Neuro-imaging may give important clues to the underlying viral etiology. If neuroimaging has been done, the findings must be mentioned and correlated with the etiology.

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