Reviewer’s report

Title: Exposure rate of VZV among women attending antenatal care clinic in Sri Lanka - a cross sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 22 May 2017

Reviewer: Holly Seale

Reviewer's report:

Revisions

Abstract

1. The use of the term 'estate populations' will not mean anything to people from outside Sri Lanka and so I suggest that the authors consider an alternative description.

Background

2. The information contained in the first paragraph has been previously reported numerous times before. Can I please suggest that you start with the info on the epidemiology of the varicella and then cover any previous published sero papers.

3. Can you include some relevant references for the following line: 'Various studies showing differences in exposure rates to VZV in different age groups have been noted with different hypotheses'

4. Can you include some relevant references for the following line: 'The climatic factors like humidity, socio-economic conditions and cultural practices appear to play a role for the differences in the exposure to the virus in the tropics'.

5. Can you please comment on whether the vaccine is available publicly or privately in Sri Lanka and also about uptake amongst kids.

Methods

6. Further information about the methods used needs to be included. For example, can you please elaborate on who the population sampled was, was there any restrictions placed on participation i.e. did you exclude anyone?, did you know the immunisation status?, did you calculate a sample size for the study? What was the minimum level of detection and what did you do with equivocal results?
7. Further information about the statistical analysis needs to be included.

Results
8. Need to be consistent with the use of decimal points
9. Provide a brief description of the women that were included in the sample
10. Can you be consistent with the terminology used- I would stick with varicella disease.
11. Figure 1, 2 and 3 do not add any value to the paper and I would suggest removing them and sticking to describing the results in text.

Discussion
12. Please provide a statement outlining the limitations associated with this study

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
**Declaration of competing interests**

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