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 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Mohammed Abdelmahmoud

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors,

Although, infection with VZV presents in two forms, primary infection Varicella or (chicken pox) which is generalized eruption, or Reactivated infection zoster or (shingles), which is localized.

Therefore testing for VZV antibody should be very important to test for past history of infection and therefore immunity among those who are exposed or will become infected specially in immune compromised patients, women expected antenatfly to VZV, health care givers, smokers or other adults who are to be offered VZV immunization ,however to prevent complications caused by VZV such as VZV pneumonitis, encephalitis, post herpatic neuralgia and ophthalmic zoster, which are severe and life threatening infections especially in adult sero-negative VZV IgG, otherwise treatment and vaccination (VZIG) is recommended,

So, according to the above, i recommend the suggested changes below:

- Suggested changes to the manuscript title is needed to:-

1- Exposure rate of VZV among women attending antenatal care clinic in Srilanka - a cross sectional study. Or,

2- Sero-prevalnce of VZV among women attending antenatal care clinic at Teaching hospital, Peradeniya-Srilanka.

- About the material and methods part ;

1- State study design clearly in material and methods section, eg;

This cross -sectional study was conducted from December 2015 to February 2016, etc..
2- How do you choose study participants? eg, randomly and how do you control them? eg; We control them according to their age, would you give the eligibility criteria.

3- From line 102 to line 112, about material and methods part, there were many (The), would you kindly please, use past simple, eg; samples were collected, blood samples were kept, all serum samples were tested, etc..

4- About Ethical consideration, include the Reference ethical approval letter number to your Manuscript.

Line 117, delete, (This is cross sectional study conducted), from Ethical consideration.

5- About Discussion part, the discussion part is suggested, but it was too long, would you kindly please, summarize it to 3-4 key points including your problem.

- From line 138 to line 160, no need.

6- Would you kindly please, add some references of recent relevant studies eg; (2014, 2015, 2016) for better recognition of your work,

Please take suggested changes on positive side,

Thank you.

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

No

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

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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