Reviewer's report

Title: Vaccine-derived poliovirus surveillance in China during 2001-2013: the potential challenge for maintaining polio free status

Version: 1 Date: 22 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Radboud Duintjer Tebbens

Reviewer's report:

I’d like to thank the authors for addressing my comments on the initial submission and those from the other reviewer. While the authors have generally addressed my points, I would like to follow up on a couple of them, using the comment numbers from my initial review.

9. Thank you for clarifying the definition, I now understand that this was not strictly a contradiction. However, it is non-standard for those used to looking at GPEI data, so I suggest that you clearly state the difference so that readers can take this into account when the compare data from different countries.

12. Thank you for adding the references related to antivirals. However, Ref. 32 is not about an antiviral drug but about monoclonal antibodies. I believe that they are indeed still in pre-clinical stage. Ref. 33 is appropriate for antiviral drugs as it describe the progress as of 2014, but the human clinical trial of this drug has now been published (JID 2017; 215(3):335-343), so it has no longer been evaluated only preclinically. The preceding sentence understates the problem of undetected (non-paralytic) iVDPV excretors. One individual has been excreting without any paralytic symptoms for over 30 years (PLoS Pathogens 2015;11(8):e1005114) and modeling
suggests that the vast majority of long-term iVDPV excretors do not develop paralysis because they spontaneously recover from the infection before developing VAPP or die from another cause (BMC Infectious Diseases 2015;15:379; Epidemiology and Infection 2017;145(2):217-226.). Instead of reference 28, I suggest you cite a more recent article that suggests that this individual has been excreting for about 30 years (PLoS Pathogens 2015;11(8):e1005114).

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

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

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.
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Quality of written English
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