Reviewer’s report

Title: A study of the relationship between human infection with avian influenza A (H5N6) and environmental avian influenza viruses in Fujian, China

Version: 0 Date: 21 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Ghazi Kayali

Reviewer's report:

In their manuscript, "A study of the relationship between human infection with avian influenza A (H5N6) and environmental avian influenza viruses in Fujian, China", Chen et al present findings on surveillance for avian influenza in the environment, poultry, and humans in China.

Major Issues:

The surveillance procedures are not properly described. Authors need to provide the details of how, when, where the samples were collected. Also, just stating environmental sampling is highly ambiguous and need sufficient details to allow proper evaluation of the work.

Another major issue is the use of chi-square for the statistical analysis when clearly some of the cells had a zero, a non-exact test should be used instead.

Also, there seems to be a lot more influenza A detected than the reported H5s. The authors need to present the data on the non-H5 viruses.

Minor issues:

A quick revision to get rid of typos and other grammatical mistakes is needed.

Background:

1- The first sentence is irrelevant as the H5N6 from the 70s has nothing to do with modern HPAI H5.

2- Line 88-89: Sentence needs rephrasing.

3- Line 92-93: Rephrase to state that cases had contact with infected poultry.

Table 1: Replace no. of surveillance with no. so samples
Discussion: Since the viruses detected were HPAI, what were the observed signs and symptoms and mortality rates among poultry

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.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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