Reviewer’s report

Title: Seroprevalence and molecular characteristics of varicella-zoster virus infection in Chinese children

Version: 0 Date: 28 May 2019

Reviewer: David Allen

Reviewer's report:

The authors present results of a study on VZV infection in children in China.

Comments:

Abstract

* Use of "totally" in abstract.

Methods

* "manufacture's introductions" should read 'manufacturer's instructions'.

Results

* Where age of FD vaccine given, useful to indicate the recommended ages for FD & SD.
* Authors do not explain dropout rate: 3014 children recruited, 3003 sera analysed.
* "Among of the children" doesn't make sense: rephrase.
* "5-year boys ... 5-year girls" needs rephrasing 'year old', or 'years of age' etc.
* Again, use of "totally".
* Among children with IgM response, how does the date of serum collection relate to date of vaccination? Were children clinical cases, either active or recent?
* Unnecessary use of "respectively".

Discussion
* Unnecessary use of 'the' in "the Korea".

* See note 4.

* Can the authors make any comparison from their data of titers in infants receiving one dose vs two doses from among the cohort studied (if any infants received two doses).

* "... even they are positivity" doesn't make sense and needs rephrasing.

* Would argue the authors did not "isolate" a type J virus (no evidence of culture), but rather detected a genotype by molecular methods.

Figures

* Figure 1 should have x- and y-axis labels, and requires a key to show what bars and the line data represent.

* Figure 2 should have a scale bar, and significant nodes identified, including a bootstrap score. Annotation to label the virus genotypes would be useful.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

'I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal