Reviewer's report

Title: Newborn screening for congenital adrenal hyperplasia in Tokyo, Japan from 1989 to 2013: a retrospective population-based study

Version: 6 Date: 4 August 2015

Reviewer: Scott D Grosse

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1. The Abstract states that the purpose is “to clarify the efficiency of CAH screening and the epidemiology of CAH in East Asia.” However, the paper only clarifies the efficiency of CAH screening in Tokyo, not for East Asia. Second, the paper does not clarify the epidemiology of CAH in East Asia. The statement should be revised as “to clarify the efficiency of CAH screening in Tokyo and to confirm the incidence of CAH in Japan.”

2. The Abstract states, “The incidence of classical CAH was equivalent to that of western countries,” which implies that until now the incidence of CAH in Japan was not known. That sentence should either be deleted or revised as “The incidence of classical CAH, as in previous Japanese screening studies, was equivalent to that of western countries.” Their study also confirms previous findings of a low incidence of non-classical CAH in Japan, which appears to be much lower than in western countries. The authors do a good job of addressing that point in the Discussion.

3. The second paragraph of the Introduction states that an aim of the study was to summarize the “epidemiology of CAH in Japan.” However, “epidemiology” means much more than incidence and includes life expectancy, among other things. The text should be revised to replace “epidemiology” with “incidence”.

4. The paper requires thorough proofreading and copy editing to correct mistakes in English that were added in the revision. To give two examples, “new born” should be “newborn” and “death cases” should be “fatal cases”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.