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Submission Manuscript NO: 73958

Article title: Association between early viral lower respiratory tract infections and subsequent asthma development, a meta-analysis.

The Editor-in-Chief
World Journal of Critical Care Medicine

Dear Editor,

We are delighted that the *World Journal of Critical Care Medicine* will consider publication of our review, pending satisfactory revisions as suggested by the Reviewers.

We have given careful consideration to the Reviewer's comments and have done our best to address them all.

In green text in the response to the Reviewers comment document is a point-by-point explanation of how we have addressed the concerns and revised our manuscript. We have enclosed

1. Point-by-point response letter
2. Track-changes version of our revised manuscript
3. A clean version of our revised manuscript

We thank the Reviewers for their thoughtful comments. With these revisions, we feel the paper has been substantially improved. We hope it will receive favorable consideration for publication in the *WJCCM*.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any additional questions or comments.

Kind regards,

Sebastien KENMOE

On behalf of the co-authors

Review Comments to the Author

Reviewer #1:

The manuscript “Association between early viral lower respiratory tract infections and subsequent asthma development, a meta-analysis” by Kenmoe et al. further expands the previous investigations on the literature about the association on respiratory infections on infants and the development of asthma. The manuscript is well-written, but has a short introduction and short discussion due to the complexity of the subject.

Authors: Thank you.

A few points that should be discussed: -Severity of the infections -Differences between different viruses. - Asthma type (allergic/Th2 or not) Overall this meta-analysis was performed according to the protocols and presents important data.

Authors: Thank you for this suggestion. Lines 279 to 311 show the discussion of the influence of the type of LRTI, namely, bronchiolitis, pneumonia...; influence of type of virus, including HRSV, RV, HMPV, and other non-HRSV. There is little information on the type of asthma reported in the included studies (allergic or not). We added this aspect within the limits of the discussion section as below, thank you.

“Another potential limitation of this review would be the absence of data in the included studies concerning the type of asthma observed, which could be allergic asthma or not.”

As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A). Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

Authors: The manuscript has been carefully reviewed and edited by one of the authors who is a native English speaker, thank you.

(1) Science editor: A meta-analysis of the manuscript found that viral LRTIs in children under 2 years of age was associated with an increased risk of subsequent asthma, regardless of pathogenic viruses and confounding factors. An interesting study with an accurate methodology.

Authors: Thank you.

Nevertheless, there are a number points that may deserve some revisions. The format of the table should be a three-line table. The author should supplement the publication bias.

Authors: Thank you for this suggestion. We strengthened the description of publication bias. It is presented in the result section as below, thanks.

“Using visual inspection, the asymmetry distribution of the funnel graph was used to check for publication bias. We observed no publication bias by the funnel graph (Supplementary Figure 1). The p value = 0.671 of the Egger regression test also indicated an absence of publication bias.”

(2) Company editor-in-chief: Please be sure to use Reference Citation Analysis (RCA) when revising the manuscript. RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. For details on the RCA, please visit the following web site: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>.

Authors: Thank you for this suggestion, done.

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Authors: Thank you, done.