

BMJ -  
Decision on  
Manuscript  
ID  
BMJ-2019-  
050247.R1

**Body:** 26-Aug-2019

Dear Dr. Song

Manuscript ID BMJ-2019-050247.R1 entitled "Stress-related disorders and subsequent risk of life-threatening infections: a population-based sibling-controlled cohort study"

Thank you for sending us your paper. We sent it for external peer review again. We hope very much that you will be willing and able to revise your paper as explained below in reviewer 1's comments regarding toning down the conclusions. We are looking forward to reading the revised version and, we hope, reaching a decision.

When you return your revised manuscript, please note that The BMJ requires an ORCID iD for corresponding authors of all research articles. If you do not have an ORCID iD, registration is free and takes a matter of seconds.

Yours sincerely,

Tiago Villanueva  
Associate Editor  
tvillanueva@bmj.com

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: This is a two-step process. After clicking on the link, you will be directed to a webpage to confirm. \*\*\*

[https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bmj?URL\\_MASK=8583aff3b0a2495aaab717a39b54df5d](https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/bmj?URL_MASK=8583aff3b0a2495aaab717a39b54df5d)

\*\* Comments from the external peer reviewers\*\*

Reviewer: 1

Recommendation:

Comments:

Somewhat improved and probably OK to publish but still believe the authors should state that studies such as these can only show an association, not causation.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Paul J. Rosch, MD

Job Title: Clinical Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry

Institution: New York Medical College

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: No

A fee for organising education?: No

Funds for research?: No

Funds for a member of staff?: No

Fees for consulting?: No

Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

If you have any competing interests <A  
HREF='http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists/d  
eclaration-competing-interests'target='\_new'> (please see BMJ policy) </a>please declare  
them here:

Reviewer: 2

Recommendation:

Comments:

I am happy with the revised version.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Mats Lekander

Job Title: Professor

Institution: Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: No

A fee for organising education?: No

Funds for research?: No

Funds for a member of staff?: No

Fees for consulting?: No

Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?: No

If you have any competing interests <A  
HREF='http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists/d  
eclaration-competing-interests'target='\_new'> (please see BMJ policy) </a>please declare  
them here: Declaration of possible conflict of interest:  
I have published three papers with authors of the present paper. I have no active project  
or funding with the authors.

Fang F, Ye W, Fall K, Lekander M, Wigzell H, Soren P, Adami HO, Valdimarsdottir U (2008). Loss of a child and the risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *Am J Epidemiol*;167:203-10.

Jernelöv S/Lekander M, Almqvist C, Axelsson J, Larsson H. Development of atopic disease and disturbed sleep in childhood and adolescence - a longitudinal population-based study. *Clinical & Experimental Allergy*. 2013;43(5):552-9.

Fang F, Olgart Höglund C, Arck P, Lundholm C, Långström N, Lichtenstein P, Lekander M & Almqvist C (2011). Maternal bereavement and childhood asthma – analyses in two large samples of Swedish children. *PLOS ONE* 6(11):e27202. Epub 2011 Nov 7.