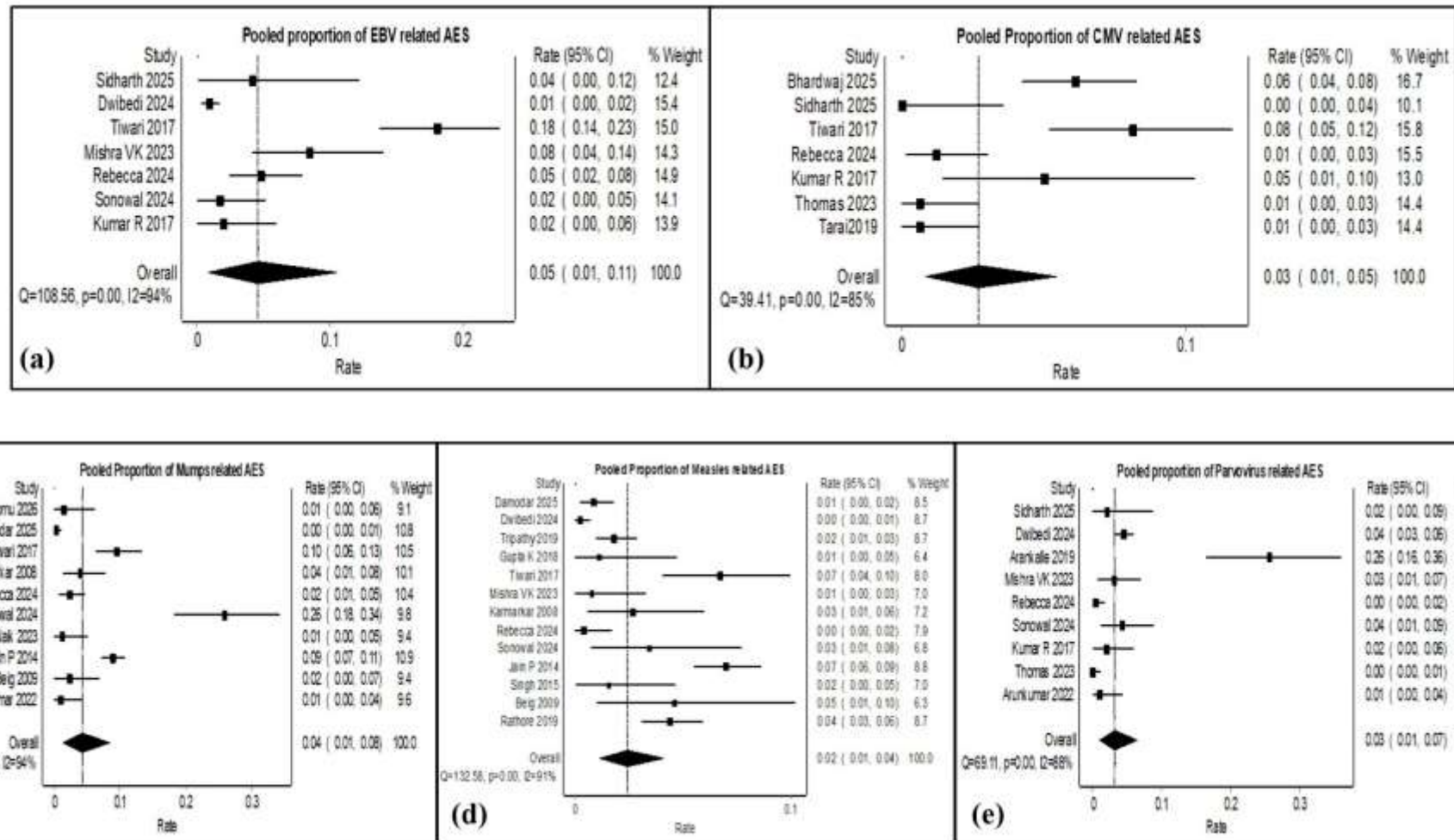
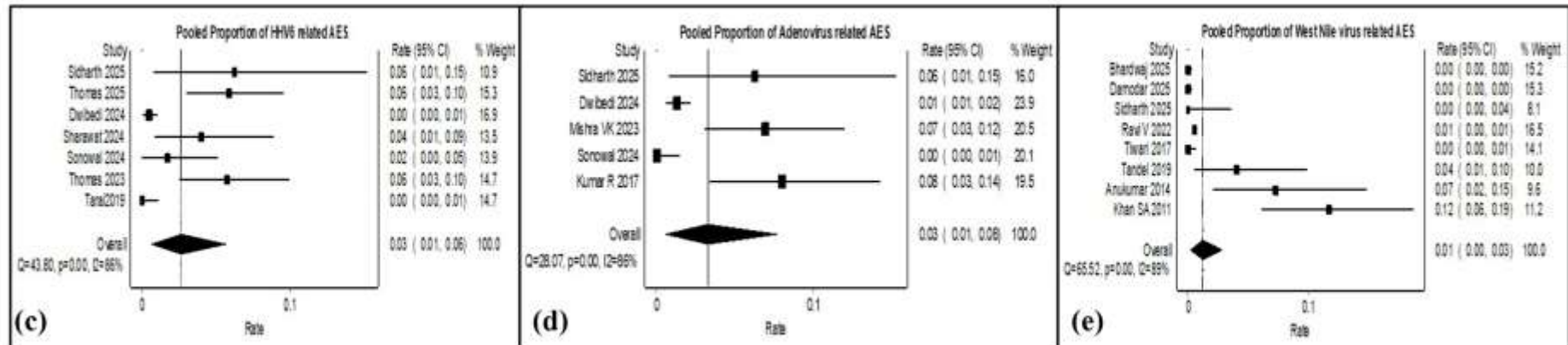
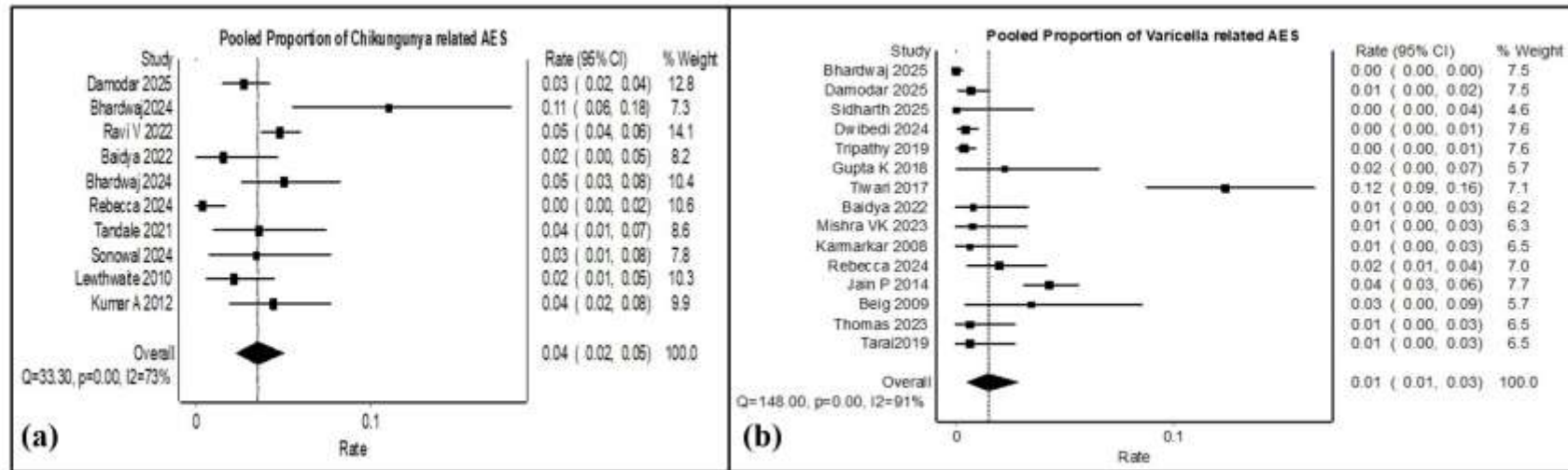


Supplementary Table 1 Search strategy for individual databases

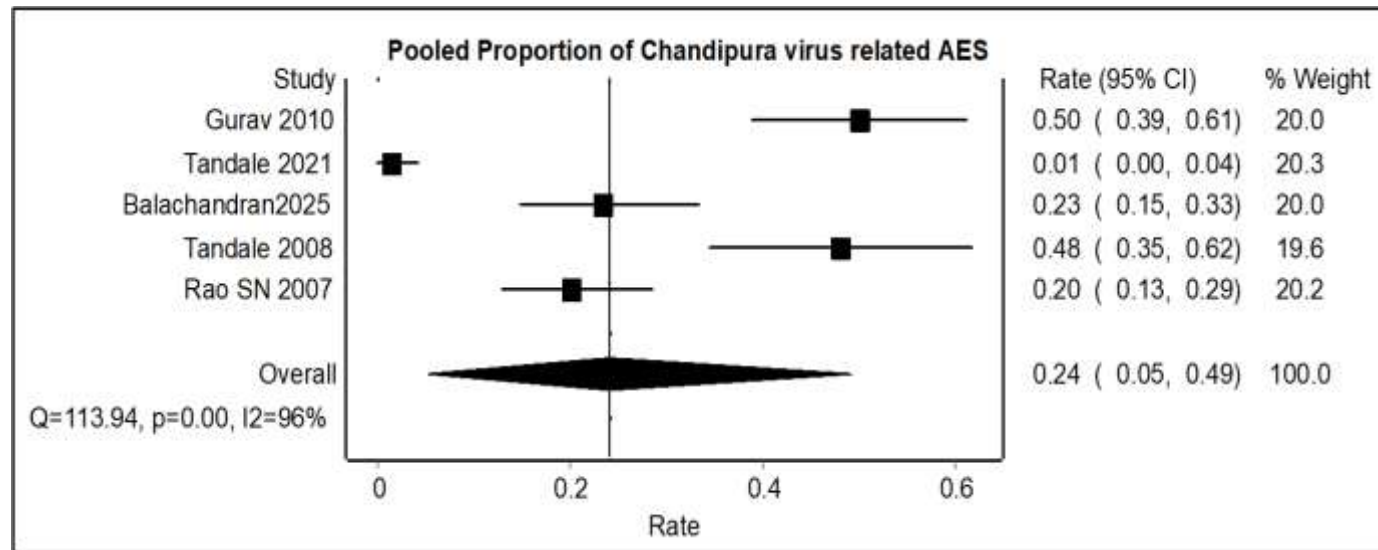
Name of database	Search strategy
PubMed/MEDLINE	((("Encephalitis"[Mesh] OR encephalitis[tiab] OR "acute encephalitis syndrome"[tiab] OR "acute febrile encephalopathy"[tiab] OR "acute encephalitic syndrome"[tiab]) AND ("Child"[Mesh] OR "Infant"[Mesh] OR "Adolescent"[Mesh] OR child[tiab] OR children[tiab] OR pediatric[tiab] OR paediatric[tiab] OR infant[tiab] OR infants[tiab] OR adolescent[tiab] OR adolescents[tiab]) AND ("Etiology"[Subheading] OR etiology[tiab] OR aetiology[tiab] OR etiological[tiab] OR aetiological[tiab] OR cause[tiab] OR causes[tiab] OR causative[tiab] OR pathogen[tiab] OR pathogens[tiab] OR infectious[tiab] OR infection[tiab] OR prevalence[tiab] OR proportion[tiab] OR frequency[tiab] OR epidemiology[tiab]) AND ("India"[Mesh] OR India[tiab]))) Filters applied: English, Human, 2000-2025
EMBASE	('encephalitis'/exp OR encephalitis:ti,ab OR 'acute encephalitis syndrome':ti,ab OR 'acute febrile encephalopathy':ti,ab OR 'acute encephalitic syndrome':ti,ab) AND ('child'/exp OR 'infant'/exp OR 'adolescent'/exp OR child*:ti,ab OR pediatric*:ti,ab OR paediatric*:ti,ab OR infant*:ti,ab OR adolescent*:ti,ab) AND ('etiology'/exp OR etiology:ti,ab OR aetiology:ti,ab OR etiological:ti,ab OR aetiological:ti,ab OR cause*:ti,ab OR pathogen*:ti,ab OR infection*:ti,ab OR infectious:ti,ab OR prevalence:ti,ab OR proportion:ti,ab OR frequency:ti,ab OR epidemiology:ti,ab) AND ('india'/exp OR india:ti,ab) AND [english]/lim AND [2000-2025]/py
SCOPUS	TITLE-ABS-KEY (encephalitis OR "acute encephalitis syndrome" OR "acute febrile encephalopathy" OR "acute encephalitic syndrome") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (child* OR pediatric* OR paediatric* OR infant* OR adolescent*) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (etiology OR aetiology OR etiological OR aetiological OR cause* OR pathogen* OR infection* OR infectious OR prevalence OR proportion OR frequency OR epidemiology) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (India) AND PUBYEAR > 1999 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD , "Human")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English"))



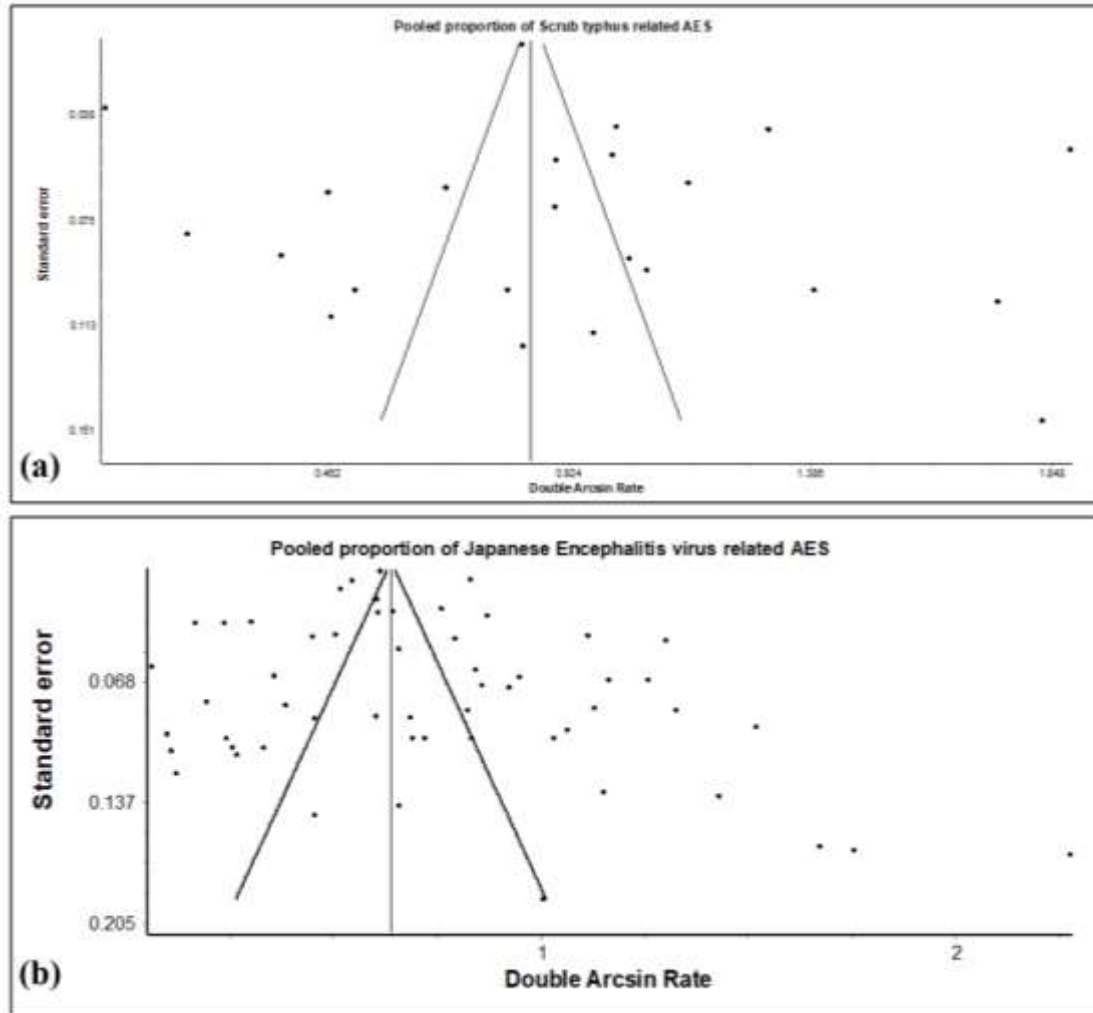
Supplementary Figure 1 Forest plots showing pooled estimate for percentage of acute encephalitis syndrome cases in children attributable to (a) EBV, (b) CMV, (c) Mumps, (d) Measles and (e) Parvovirus



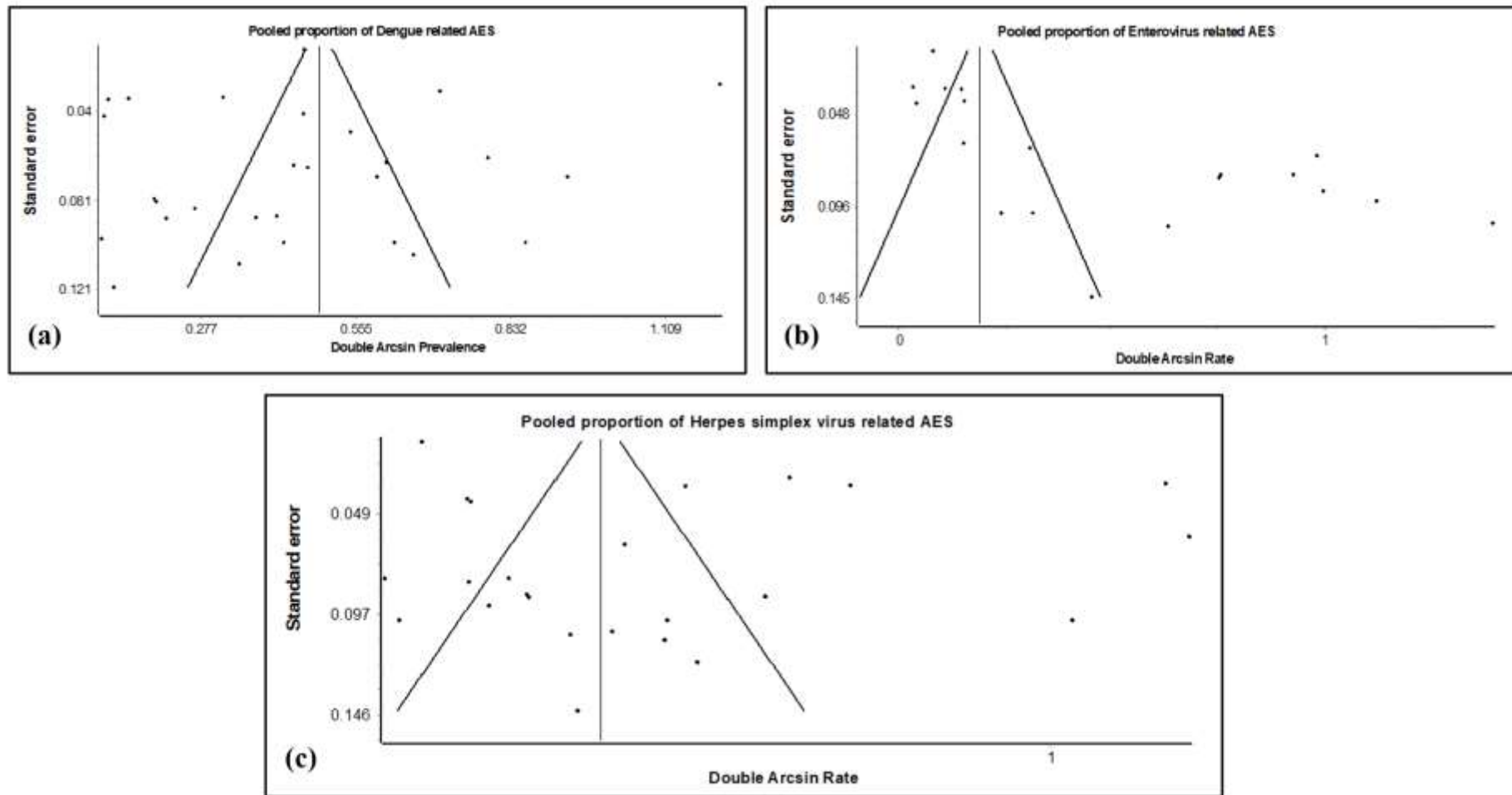
Supplementary Figure 2 Forest plots showing pooled estimate for percentage of acute encephalitis syndrome cases in children attributable to (a) Chikungunya, (b) Varicella, (c) HHV-6, (d) Adenovirus, and (e) West Nile virus



Supplementary Figure 3 Forest plot showing the pooled estimate for percentage of acute encephalitis syndrome cases in children attributable to Chandipura Virus.



Supplementary Figure 4 Funnel plots assessing publication bias for pooled analyses of (a) Scrub typhus-related and (b) Japanese encephalitis-related acute encephalitis syndrome in children.



Supplementary Figure 5 Funnel plots assessing publication bias for pooled analyses of (a) Dengue-related, (b) Enterovirus-related, and (c) Herpes simplex virus-related acute encephalitis syndrome in children.