Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of community-acquired paediatric rotavirus gastroenteritis on family life: data from the REVEAL* study

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Reviewer: Alberto E Tozzi

Reviewer's report:

The article reports the results from a widely known study on rotavirus GE in children. Although the burden of RVGE has been studied by other authors, this study adds interesting information in the European context. The article may benefit of some additional information on methods that are mostly reported in reference.

Major points

1. The methods section is insufficient. Although the Authors clearly reference an article where the study design is fully reported, readers may not have immediate access to it, and may not be able to appropriately interpret the results. The Authors should state which population was included in the study, how it was selected, and how the follow up was performed;

2. The Authors state that the overall response rate of the study was high but they do not report the actual total figure. The low response rates observed in UK and Belgium should be accompanied by comments on reasons for selection of patients: were patients responding to the questionnaire of the same age, same social census than those not responding ?

3. The Authors should better explain how additional childcare was defined. Was it the presence of some help in the family for the care of other children ? If this is the case, the analysis should be performed taking into account the number of children in the family;

Minor points

1. The difference in proportions of children requiring a parent who is absent from work by country is interesting. How the Authors would explain the low figures reported in hospitalized children in Belgium, France, and Germany ?

2. In the general context of the burden of RVGE, the number of extra visits and possibly inappropriate prescriptions or diet out of hospital or primary care may add to the parameters considered in this article. The Authors may further discuss how the burden of RVGE may be underestimated.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have been acting as principal investigator in a study on the epidemiology of RVGE in Italy funded by Glaxo SmithKline