Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 10 November 2009

Reviewer: Richard Milne

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written account that compliments earlier publications by the same group. The information is simple to understand, clearly presented and pragmatically useful. It is based on a questionnaire, and responder rates were high. The limitations of the parental recall methodology are discussed briefly.

Minor essential revisions
1. The limitations of the observational study methodology need to be discussed briefly.
2. The paper needs to discuss validation of the questionnaire that was used.
3. Why was the visual analogue methodology chosen to assess stress levels? Were any other methodologies considered and rejected?
4. The paper would be improved by providing weighted averages as a bottom line in each of the tables; or explaining why this is not appropriate.
5. More information needs to be given on the reasons for excluding some children from the study, in case this introduces bias.
6. This statement is not useful without showing the data:

"Although there were some variations between countries, data suggested that both parents lost time from work if the child was hospitalized, whereas the mother was more likely to lose time from work if the child was managed in the primary-care setting (data not shown)."

Discretionary revisions

A more recent paper from Israel could be cited.


Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.