Reviewer's report

Title: Duration of fever and serious bacterial infections in children: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 7 March 2011

Reviewer: Jean-Francois Chenot

Reviewer's report:

This is a systematic review assessing the association between duration of fever and serious bacterial infection in children. Overall this is a well done and well written systematic review and I have no suggestions for improvement.

Title
The title is informative of content of the article.

Abstract
The abstract reflects the content of the article.

Background
The rationale for the systematic review is well explained. The study question is adequately formulated.

Methods
The method is well described and is in line with current recommendations for systematic reviews. Data extraction and selection of studies is adequately shown in figure 1. For quality assessment a modified criteria list of Hayden was uses, which is appropriate

Results
A total of / studies have been included in the review. Results of the quality assessment are shown in Table. 3. The selected studies are well summarized in Table 4.

Discussion
The discussion is well structured. The results of this systematic review are not surprising and unfortunately not helpful for the practitioner. The discussion of the reason for the observed contradictory or inconclusive findings is appropriate. The conclusion is in line with the information extracted from the included 7 studies.

References
The references adhere to instruction for authors.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests