Reviewer’s report

Title: Complementary or alternative? The use of homeopathic products and antibiotics amongst pre-school children

Version: 1 Date: 4 July 2007

Reviewer: Robert T Mathie

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

There needs to be greater clarity in describing numbers of children and questionnaire responses: figures of 13971, 12064 and 9723 are given without a stated link between these sub-sets.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)


Results reports multivariate analysis that does not appear to reconcile with data presented in Table 3: for "TV watched", the adjusted OR factor is not included as P>0.05.

In Implications of the Study, it would be worth making the point that children with wheeze and food allergies were more likely to use homeopathy.

In Conclusions, the word "promoted" seems incorrectly used.

Table 3: Maternal smoking categories are presumably numbers of cigarettes per day.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

P4, para 1, line 13: Insert "alternative or complementary therapies" between "ensure that if" and "such as homeopathy".

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions
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 declare that I have no competing interests.

Robert T Mathie