Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 4 September 2007

Reviewer: Andre Busato

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)

The problem of "old data" remains a weakness of this study and can probably not be addressed. The additional reference provided by the authors (Cincotta et al.) refers to hospitalized patients and cannot be compared with the generally healthy cohort of children that provided the data basis for this study.

CAM methods (medical and non medical) became very popular for parents in the last ten years and it is therefore likely that the results of the study are considerably outdated.

Another problem of the study that can also not be addressed by the authors is recall bias. The notion that effects of different types of bias compensated each other in a way that eventually valid and unbiased estimates of CAM use were obtained cannot be accepted from a scientific point of view. More information on extent of bias is therefore needed.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'