Reviewer’s report

Title: Community acquired bacterial meningitis in Cuba: a follow up of a decade.

Version: 3 Date: 23 March 2010

Reviewer: Annunziata Faustini

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Community acquired bacterial meningitis in Cuba: a follow-up of a decade.
2nd revision
BMC_Infectious diseases due on 30 March 2010

COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I must note for the second time that the authors, while they did respond to a few of the methodological points I remarked on in the first revision, did not re-analyse the data. Thus both the results and the conclusions have remained just as they were in the first revision.

Although the authors have improved their description of the approach they used in analysing the temporal trend and defining the final model, they did not standardise mortality data by age and did not include in the multivariable analysis the factors related to the timing of the care and the aetiological agents. Finally, some parts of the conclusions are insufficiently supported by the data presented here.

About the standardisation of incidence rates, I think that reassuring readers that the age distribution is similar in all the geographical areas of the island is not really enough. About the multivariable analysis, not adjusting in the same logistic model for all the variables known to be associated with the outcome may cause residual confounding.

Though no formal errors mar the paper, the methods used for these two steps greatly reduce the importance of the results. However, these problems do not definitively prevent an editorial decision to publish the paper.

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

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