Reviewer's report

**Title:** Epidemiology of nasopharyngeal carriage of respiratory bacterial pathogens in older children and adults: cross-sectional surveys in a population with high rates of pneumococcal disease

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 14 August 2010

**Reviewer:** Jacobus de Waard

**Reviewer's report:**

I consider the information presented in this investigation of importance and very interesting. It is one of the few studies considering nasopharyngeal carriage of three pathogens among all ages of a very vulnerable population.

After reading the manuscript I still have a few questions:

In this study the authors isolated Haemophilus influenzae with a high frequency. Please can you indicate if this is encapsulated H. influenzae or unencapsulated strains (nontypable). In addition, is there Hib vaccination program in this population? What brand of Hib vaccine is used?

S. aureus very often colonizes the nasopharynx and I suppose that this bug was also isolated in this study. If so and if the data are available, was there an interaction between S. aureus colonization and the other pathogens isolated in this study?

**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'