Author's response to reviews

Title: Sequential multiplex PCR assay for determining capsular serotypes of colonizing S. pneumoniae

Authors:

Sarah Jourdain (sajourda@ulb.ac.be)
Pierre-Alexandre Drèze (pidreze@ulb.ac.be)
Jozef Vandeven (jozef.vandeven@uzleuven.be)
Jan Verhaegen (jan.verhaegen@uzleuven.be)
Laurence Van Melderen (lvmelder@ulb.ac.be)
Pierre R Smeesters (psmeeste@ulb.ac.be)

Version: 4 Date: 15 March 2011

Author's response to reviews:

Point to point response to editor and reviewer comments.

Editorial request:

Further consideration of your manuscript is conditional on improvement of the English used. Please ensure particular attention is paid to the abstract

We improved the English through the manuscript with the help of a native English speaking colleague.

Reviewer's report 2:

Discretionary revision

The only suboptimal reply concerns comment 1. "The methods of the carriage study that yielded the Sp strains should be briefly described, to allow the reader judging on whether this was a representative sample of the age group, the number of colonies analysed per participant, and whether multiple carriage was detected." Although the authors added some information, they do not provide any element on the representativity, number of colonies or multiple carriage, as requested.

We modified and gave more informations on the methods used during the carriage study.

Line 106-110: Nasopharyngeal aspirates were performed three times during the school years on 333 children (mean age 4.2 years). A total of 830 samples were analysed for the presence of S. pneumoniae. In total, 362 pneumococci belonging to 31 serotypes were collected. Sixty nine percent of the children
carried at least once *S. pneumonia*. Number of colonies was not determined.