Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical outcome of pneumococcal meningitis during the emergence of pencillin-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae: an observational study

Version: 3 Date: 22 August 2011

Reviewer: Keith Klugman

Reviewer’s report:

The revised version suggests that the increased mortality associated with penicillin - resistance is not due to discordant penicillin therapy - indeed the authors suggest it may be due to prolonged time before therapy is commenced - if this is the explanation (as it may be) then there may be a differential in time to commencement of appropriate therapy between pen - resistant and susceptible strains - was this looked for? Also it may be that previous oral betalactam antibiotics may mitigate somewhat the poor outcome for susceptible strains but have no such impact on resistant strains - was information collected on previous betalactam therapy?

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