Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of rotavirus gastroenteritis in the Middle Eastern and North African pediatric population

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Reviewer: Antonella De Donno

Reviewer's report:

Consideration for the editor
I feel the manuscript could be considered for publication in BMC Infect Dis minor essential revisions.
In fact, the article seems to be original, interesting and related to the journal topics, Its findings are important to those with closely related research interests.
However, the manuscript contains several misprints and ambiguities that the author should amend and some sections should be reconsidered and improved before the paper is accepted

General considerations
The authors propose a systematic literature (RS) review on the burden of rotavirus acute gastroenteritis on the paediatric population in two wide regions of the Earth (Middle Eastern and North African).
The information worked out from these types of study are too much heterogeneous in aims, methods and population characteristics. Hence comparing two or more studies on systematic literature become too difficult.
Moreover the validation of a RS and the accuracy of its results depend to the precision applied in phase of construction of the experimental design. The evaluation of the methodological quality of the epidemiological studies in an RS is a fundamental aspect to give into account in order to avoid the BIAS and to get a correct interpretation of the results: in this work this assessment was not specified.
The authors didn’t emphasized the strategies used (if used!!) for resuming the information and the criteria adopted for the choose of one reference instead of another.
Finally the authors didn’t specified clearly the aims of the paper: for example it is not clear if the review is referred also to the spatial-temporal distribution of circulating Rotavirus genotypes.

Introduction
It would be useful to add some information about the vaccine used for the prevention of Gastroenteritis caused by Rotaviruses.

Materials and methods
The Tests of statistical analysis used must be indicated in this section.

Conclusions
In page 14 line 18 the authors could specify that the G12 strain was isolated even in Europe, specifically in Italy (see reference: G genotyping of rotaviruses in stool samples in Salento, Italy, Grassi T. et al 2006 J Prev Med Hyg).

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

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