Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk Factors for Serotype 19A Carriage After Introduction of 7-valent Pneumococcal Vaccination

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Reviewer: Filippo Ansaldi

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In this study Authors investigated the risk factors potentially related to S.pneumoniae 19A serotype NP carriage in a population of children aged 6 to 24 months after the introduction of PCV7 conjugated vaccine. Multivariate logistic regression was used to analyze factors influencing S.pneumoniae carriage, carriage of resistant SPN strains, of 19A serotype strains and resistant 19A serotypes.

Authors demonstrated that 19A carriage could be linked to antibiotic exposure, DCC attendance and to AOM.

The subject of the manuscript is of great interest for scientific community in the light of the epidemiological picture. The paper is methodologically and scientifically accurate, data are well presented, table are self explanatory and related to the text.

Minor essential revision:

Methods
Authors should refer to 19A and PNS-19A as 19A serotype strains and PNS-19A serotype strains.

Results
The percentages of penicillin susceptible, intermediate and resistant isolates reported in the text are discordant with the corresponding data reported in Table 1.

Table 1
Authors should add some explanation about penicillin susceptibility asterisks.

Discretionary revisions:

In background section, there is no mention about the increase in serotype 19A strains in the US due to vaccine escape recombinant strains ST695.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I received financial support for scientific research and attendance at international meetings from pneumococcal vaccine manufacturers including Pfizer/Wyeth and Sanofi Pasteur