Reviewer's report

Title: The status of invasive pneumococcal disease among children younger than 5 years of age in North-West Lombardy, Italy

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2011

Reviewer: Matthias Imöhl

Reviewer's report:

Riva et al report on invasive pneumococcal disease among children younger than 5 years of age in North-West Lombardy in Italy and include a calculation on incidences.

This is an interesting and valuable paper. I have only minor remarks.

minor remarks

page 2, line 22: penicillin-resistant

page 5, line 22: why is the temperature regarded as important only in children # 36 months? This should be clarified for the reader.

page 7, line 6: cultures

page 8, line 20: delete the “.”

page 7, line 21: 400X? not 1000X?

page 7, lines 21-22: capsular swelling with specific antisera and a positive Quellung reaction: I guess an Omni serum followed by type specific antisera is meant. This should be clarified.

page 10, line 7: “.” instead of “,”

page 10, lines 8-13: since the results are calculated from only 13 isolates, the limitations of this database should be discussed. Table 4 should be deleted and the text accordingly adjusted.

page 11, line 3: Piemont

page 11, line 6: Maybe “(pooled 31.1/100,000)” is meant?

page 11, lines 18-21: please rephrase

page 12, lines 1-12: the limitations of this calculation (13 isolates only!) should be discussed

page 13, line 9: “while an acceptable level of non-resistance to antibiotics was observed” => please rephrase

table 1 & 2: It is partly not clear to me, whether the P-values refer to all isolates
concerned (table 1: age and doses; table 2: diagnosis and C-reactive protein) or
to single subgroup. The tables would profit from clarifying this.

table 4: should be deleted

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests