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 April 2011

**Reviewer:** Nurith porat

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

Enrica Riva, Filippo Salvini, Maria L Garlaschi, Giovanni Radaelli and Marcello Giovannini BMC Infectious Diseases Research article

**Comments to authors:**

This paper presents important data about the incidence of IPD among children aged < 5 years in North-West Lombardy, Italy. Baseline data on patient's socio-demographic characteristics and previous pneumococcal vaccination were recorded. S. pneumoniae strains were characterized by their serotype and antimicrobial susceptibility. Less than a third of the isolates belonged to serotypes covered by PCV7. This information might be helpful in determining which conjugate vaccine is preferable for this population.

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

1) The number of isolates is too small to estimate the frequency of the various serotypes. Therefore, the conclusion of the abstract (This study confirms the increasing emergence of new S. pneumoniae serotypes…) must be rephrased. This limitation should be clearly stated in the discussion.

2) Table 3: Information regarding the vaccine status of the 13 confirmed IPD cases is missing. Therefore it is impossible to draw any conclusion regarding the effect of the vaccine on the incidence vaccine-type IPD.

3) Table 4: The minimal theoretical expected vaccine coverage is irrelevant because the number of serotyped isolates was only 13, and therefore should be omitted. I suggest putting the data of table 4 in the text of the results

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1) Information regarding the introduction of PCV7 in Italy is missing.


3) S. pneumoniae should be italicized in the references section.

4) The manuscript needs some punctuation and language corrections before being published.
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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'