Reviewer's report

**Title:** Identification and characterization of the bacterial etiology of clinically problematic acute otitis media after Tympanocentesis or spontaneous otorrhea in German children

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 13 April 2012

**Reviewer:** Robert Cohen

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper is interesting mainly because the data from Germany about bacterial etiology of AOM are scarce.
The main limitation of the study is the fact that 74% of the bacteriological samples came from otorrhea. AOM with otorrhea represent less than 10% of AOM and the role of S. pyogenes is over estimated in these cases. For these reasons the results could not be extrapolated for all cases off AOM.
These points have to be underlined in the discussion as limitations of the study

Another point have to be

**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' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.