Reviewer's report

Title: Non-capsulated and Capsulated Haemophilus influenzae in Children with Acute Otitis Media in Venezuela: a prospective epidemiological study

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Interesting work and study results. Publication of findings is important because not too much AOM epidemiological information is coming from Latin America. There are several aspects that authors should consider to improve manuscript.

1. Main objective of this study was related to investigate the epidemiology of AOM in Venezuelan children. Nonetheless, It looks like that authors waited for results to choose the title (capsulated and noncapsulated H. influenzae). Title seems more commercially than academically driven wording.

2. Study was conducted in a private setting of central Venezuela. It is important to underscore this setting because epidemiological results could not apply necessarily to a more public pediatric population. Many differences can be involve. Variables include antibiotic use/abuse, day care attendance, breast feeding rates, smoking habits, number of siblings, PCV7 and Hib vaccination availability, etc.

3. Besides the speculation of prior PCV7 use to explain predominance of H. influenzae over S. pneumoniae, age of enrolled children could be another factor. Mean age of subjects was 28 months, period in which NTHi AOM has been shown to be more frequent.

4. Finally, but very relevant, authors should moderate business-oriented conclusions. I suggest, therefore, to reduce the enthusiasm in stating that PHiD-CV will covered 36% more of causing pathogens (55% vs 19%) than PCV13. First, because in the POET study, the PHiD-CV prototype vaccine had an efficacy against NTHi of only 35%. And second, because protection against a membrane Hi protein D, does not warrant protection against capsulated Hi strains (capsule would impede antibody action against protein D).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have received grants for drug/vaccine studies and honoraries for advisory boards/conferences from GSK, Sanofi-Pasteur, Pfizer, Merck, Abbott, and several other companies during the past 20 years.