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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**Reviewer:** Susan Jacups

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper reports a one-year study into bacteriological causes of AOM from a private clinic in Caracas, Venezuela. The data are collected under optimal conditions and appear sound. The major findings are that Non-capsulated HI and Strep pneumonia dominate AOM in children presenting to this clinic.

Major problems: Although this is a good study, topic, study design; the English expression is poor and most of the manuscript is written in passive voice. The combination of these two factors leads to constant confusion and ambiguity. The results report on details not described in the methods. I recommend and explicit approach, such that authors list the data to be collected.

Data were collected include “gender, age, clinical presentation symptoms, clinical samples”. Similarly, the statistical test used to obtain p=0.38 is not described, was it a chi square, if so, this needs clarification in the methods.

Table one can be removed and just referenced, table 2 can be removed and the findings included in text. Of note, the mean with standard deviation are reported in data are normally distributed (these do not appear so), else median and range, this can be summarized in text easily. The gender differences are insignificant, a brief note could be added in the text or an astrix * to figure 2. Figure 5 can be removed.

One major finding was that there was no Hib. This is valid as confirmed vaccine failure has resulted in Hib deaths in recent years, and there is growing fear that this trend is growing.

The discussion is too short and does not synthesis the information adequately, this section needs more literature (international) bought in for discussion with these study results.

Minor: the vaccine schedule for Venezuela is not discussed in the introduction, this needs to be added. The format of the methods and results sections need to be reorganized and perhaps synchronized for ease of reading.

I would not recommend the publishing of this manuscript, as it is not up to the standard of BMC journals. However, the following changes would make it eligible for resubmission at a different journal.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.