Reviewer's report

Title: Pregnant women at risk of primary infection with rubella virus in Burkina Faso

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Reviewer: Annette Mankertz

Reviewer's report:

The authors have conducted a seroprevalence study in Burkina Faso. Since BF has not included rubella vaccination into the mandatory vaccination program, data about susceptibility in women of child-bearing age is important for the field. Since the data is interesting but the amount of data not overwhelming, I suggest converting the manuscript into a short note if the editor thinks it appropriate, too.

The serum samples have been determined with an up-to-date test for immunity against infection with rubella virus and the results have been correlated to sociodemographic factors without finding large differences or predictors for the lack of immunity.

The data is sound and the authors adhere to good practice and relevant standards for reporting. The conclusions are supported by the data.

Major Comment

The study is limited since only 341 samples have been investigated in only two centers. This lack of stratification and the low number of samples in a country of 17 mio inhabitants limit the conclusion. This is not per se a fault abd especially not of the authors but it should be addressed and pointed out.

The title does not really reflect the aim of the study, since the risk can only be roughly estimated. In my opinion, the title should stick to the facts, i.e. that a seroprevalence study has been conducted in pregnant women in Burkina Faso.

The IgG test is now produced by Siemens and no longer by Dade Behring.

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