Reviewer’s report

Title: Varicella routine vaccination and the effects on varicella epidemiology - results from the Bavarian Varicella Surveillance Project (BaVariPro), 2006-2011

Version: 1 Date: 9 February 2013

Reviewer: Peter Wutzler

Reviewer’s report:

General comments
This manuscript presents data of a well performed study and adds relevant knowledge to the field of varicella routine vaccination regarding vaccine coverage, epidemiology and disease burden in an urban region.

Minor essential revisions
- Abstract:
“Vaccinated cases increased to 0.4 (95%CI 0.3-0.5) per..“ ..What is the increase referred to ?

- Discussion:
Parents survey: The potential for bias (non-responder error, level of school education and response rate, recall bias) when using the postal questionnaire should be discussed.

Discretionary revisions
- It would be useful, from the health care perspective, to refer to the STIKO report on evaluation of the varicella vaccination in Germany from January 2013.

- It should be mentioned that varicella is expected to be made notifiable on the national level in Germany leading to a new quality of epidemiological surveys.

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.