Reviewer's report

Title: The 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine elicits cross-functional opsonophagocytic killing responses to Streptococcus pneumoniae serotype 6D in children

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Reviewer: Edwin David DM McIntosh

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The ability of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to elicit cross-reactivity and by implication cross-protection has been an intensely studied area. It is important to describe the implications for individuals countries and, in particular, for their vaccination policy. As a discretionary comment, a little information about the history of serotype 6D in Korea would be helpful along with any known clinical implications.

The age group studied (12 to 23 months) is of interest, as this is still a period of high risk. However, the numbers are relatively small. Despite this, the serology is convincing - it appears that there is cross-reactivity across serogroup 6, especially after a booster dose. For countries with a 2+1 schedule, the applicability is less certain that for countries with a 3+1 schedule.

One possible component of bias could be the reasons that the subjects sought "medical examination" - this implies that they may not have been entirely "healthy volunteers". One would expect that if the subjects had anything other than a minor illness, that this would have been mentioned.

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.