Reviewer's report

Title: Protecting newborns from pertussis - the challenge of complete cocooning

Version: 2
Date: 16 June 2014

Reviewer: Nicoline Van der Maas

Reviewer's report:

This article gives a nice overview of the effects of cocooning in Switzerland. Important aspects of this and other strategies to protect young infants against pertussis are addressed well.

Major compulsory revisions.
1. In the methods section information on sample size calculation is missing. Please add.

Minor essential revisions.
2. Authors suggest only US suffered from an increase and recent epidemics, but the upsurge of pertussis is a worldwide problem with ongoing outbreaks in US, Europe, Australia, Middle East. Please address.

3. Authors describe that parents were invited during periods in 2012 and 2013. Please address why these specific periods are chosen instead of another period or an entire calendar year.

4. Information on the infant pertussis vaccination schedule is useful to interpret the timeliness of the parents' vaccination after birth. Please add this in the background and discussion.

5. Page 6, line 168: please change 'of immunized 126 fathers' into 'of 126 immunized fathers'.

6. Page 7, line 184-185: 'indicating earlier adoption of the new immunization recommendation in Hospital A' is officially a point for discussion and should not be mentioned in the results section.

7. Strengths and limitations: Authors should discuss the relatively low response rate of this questionnaire survey.

Discretionary revisions.
8. Abstract: First part of first sentence of methods is originally the aim of the study, should be separate of methods. Second last sentence: 'planing' should be changed in 'planning'.

9. Page 2, line 55: Please add 'in Switzerland' to the sentence 'aimed at protecting newborns from pertussis'. 
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 don't have any competing interests regarding this topic.