Reviewer's report

Title: A randomised trial to evaluate the immunogenicity, reactogenicity, and safety of the 10-valent pneumococcal non-typeable Haemophilus influenzae protein D conjugate vaccine (PHiD-CV) co-administered with routine childhood vaccines in Singapore and Malaysia

Version: 2  Date: 20 July 2014

Reviewer: Antoni Soriano-Arandes

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes, the question proposed by the authors is clearly stated and defined. Title could be different being more concise in the comparison between 2 different pneumococcal conjugate vaccines that are equal in its composition to determine no differences between them.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes, the methods are appropriate and well described in the methodology part of the article.

3. Are the data sound? Yes, data is plausible and agreed with published articles.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes, but as authors detail in discussion level of protection for 19A serotype is further needed and not explained by the study.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Not at all, because the title remarks on a randomized new pneumococcal vaccine PHiD-CV that are co-administrated with routine vaccines and the main objective of the study is to compare a commercial and a phase III 11-serotype pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes.

An important question to be assumed by the authors when they write: "Although it remains unclear why the magnitude of immune responses to pneumococcal conjugate vaccines varies in different populations, plausible explanations include genetic factors, early exposure to S. pneumoniae, or nasopharyngeal carriage of pneumococcal serotypes", is to justify why no blood or nasopharynx swab sample is obtained before the first primary vaccination before the age of 2 month-old.
Some of these challenges would be able to have an answer including this action into the methodology design of the study. Taking blood before first vaccination will allow us to know which percentage of children were pneumococcal carriers before first vaccination and to know early exposures to them in this study population, which is likely different to other Western countries children.

**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 on this study.