Reviewer's report
Title: Congenital Rubella Syndrome in Iran
Version: 5 Date: 4 May 2005
Reviewer: Rebecca R Prevots
Reviewer's report:
General

The revised paper is much improved and addresses most of the original concerns. This paper represents an important contribution to the literature on rubella and congenital rubella syndrome.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1) In intro- the CDC recently convened a committee which agreed that indigenous transmission of rubella had been eliminated. This has been published in the MMWR.

2) re- surveillance for congenital rubella after vaccination. I think the author means monitoring of vaccination coverage and surveillance for CRS. There is no need for surveillance of CRS after vaccination as various studies and registries have shown no evidence of CRS from vaccine strains.

3) IN results, for "D", the frequency of sensorineural hearing loss- not sure why the author chose 50%. There are probably studies showing frequency of that outcome among children with CRS.

4) In: comments for future studies: not sure why you would do a serologic survey of hearing impaired children after rubella vaccination- you couldn't distinguish between vaccine induced and wild virus induced antibodies, although you could get vaccination histories. Much better to just set up CRS surveillance to monitor impact of vaccination program.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.