Reviewer's report

Title: Acute childhood diarrhoea in northern Ghana: epidemiological, clinical and microbiological characteristics

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2007

Reviewer: Alicia Sanchez-Fauquier

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1-One of the questions that arise is why the authors follow the criteria to include under 12 years old instead 5 years old?

2- More details are needed describing the sampling strategy to help the reader to understand the ability to generalize the results to children of Ghana and to compare temporal trends. For the former purpose, the following details should be provided: 1) the rationale for choosing the hospital and how they represent the geographic, climatic, and ethnic diversity in Northern Ghana; 2) a description of the catchment area served by hospital; 3) the utilization of the hospital by children residing in the catchment area; and, 4) the proportion of eligible children who were enrolled in the study.

3-Did the authors attempt to detect the possible presence of other important strains as G8, G12 and G5 which are also emerging strains of rotavirus?

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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 have no competing interests' below