Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Survey of childhood empyema in Asia: Implications for detecting the unmeasured burden of culture-negative bacterial disease

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 13 May 2008

**Reviewer:** Carrie Byington

**Reviewer’s report:**

Thank you for the revised manuscript. It is much more balanced and addresses the limitations of the study. I have several suggestions for minor revisions:

1) In the abstract, I believe one of the conclusions should discuss the need to develop standard definitions and coding practices for empyema in Asian and other countries.

2) In the 1st paragraph of the Background, the authors mention S. pneumoniae as an important cause of empyema, but not S. aureus, the predominant organism identified in the study. At least 1 line describing the importance of S. aureus in empyema in children should be given early on.

3) In the Discussion, the need for a standard definition and practice for coding empyema should be emphasized as a conclusion.

4) Capitalize Gram-negative and Gram positive throughout.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I received grant funding from Wyeth to study empyema in children in 2007-2008.