Author's response to reviews

Title: Invasive Pneumococcal Infections Among Persons Without Underlying Medical Conditions: Implications for Prevention Strategies

Authors:

Peter Klemets (peter.klemets@ktl.fi)
Outi Lyytikäinen (outi.lyytikainen@ktl.fi)
Petri Ruutu (petri.ruutu@ktl.fi)
Jukka Ollgren (jukka.ollgren@ktl.fi)
J Pekka Nuorti (PNuorti@cdc.gov)

Version: 2 Date: 18 April 2008

Author's response to reviews:

The Editor,
BMC Infectious Diseases
Melissa Norton, MD
BioMed Central Ltd,
Middlesex House,
34-42 Cleveland Street,
London W1T 4LB, UK.

Dear Dr Norton,

Enclosed is a manuscript entitled ‘Invasive pneumococcal infections among persons without underlying medical conditions: implications for prevention strategies’, which we would like to submit to be considered for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases in the “Research article” - section.

We believe that our paper might be of interest to your readers because it offers a comprehensive evaluation of the substantial unaddressed vaccine-preventable disease burden of invasive pneumococcal infections among the general population of working-age adults in a nationwide, population-based setting. This information will be useful for policy-makers who are assessing the benefits, cost-effectiveness and appropriate target groups to strengthen immunisation programs.

All the authors have seen and approved the manuscript. The paper has not been submitted elsewhere. These data were presented in part as a poster at the 4th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD-4), May 9-13, 2004, Helsinki, Finland.

Use of data collected from population-based registries in this research was
authorized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Finnish Data Protection Authority, and the National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health. Because this study was register-based no local ethics committee approvals were required.

Experts in the field of pneumococcal disease epidemiology and immunization programs who could potentially serve as reviewers to this paper include:

1 Professor James D. Kellner, Alberta Children’s Hospital, Calgary, Canada
2 Dr. Jay C. Butler, Chief Medical Officer, Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services, U.S.A
3 Professor Ron Dagan, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Unit, Beer Sheva, Israel
4 Dr. Åke Örtqvist, Department of Communicable Diseases, Control and Prevention, Stockholm, Sweden

Please address correspondence regarding this manuscript at the address below.

Sincerely,

Peter Klemets, MD
Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control
National Public Health Institute
Mannerheimintie 166
FIN-00300 Helsinki, Finland
Phone: 358-9-47448778
Fax: 358-9-47448468
E-mail: peter.klemets@ktl.fi

J. Pekka Nuorti, MD
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases,
1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop C-23
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
Atlanta, GA 30333, U.S.A.
Email: PNuorti@cdc.gov