Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 16 June 2008

**Reviewer:** Angel Vila-Corcoles

**Reviewer's report:**

Reviewer 2: Angel Vila-Corcoles

Reviewer's report:

In this study, the authors investigated all episodes of invasive pneumococcal infections (bactereaemias and meningitis) identified by Finnish microbiology laboratories during 1995-2002 and evaluate the incidence and mortality of invasive pneumococcal disease according to age groups, sex and with various underlying medical conditions among the Finnish population. In the study design, the authors have linked different data sources including the National Infectious Disease Register (NIDR), the National Cancer Registry, the National Social Insurance Institution (KELA), the National Hospital Discharge Register (HILMO) and NIDR (HIV infection). The paper provides an excellent opportunity to compare the results (basically incidence rates and lethality) with data previously reported in other settings.

I agree the changes introduced by the authors in this second version of the manuscript. In my opinion, the present version of the manuscript could be published without additional revision.

**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'