Reviewer's report

Title: Varicella: epidemiological aspects and vaccination coverage in Veneto Region.

Version: 1 Date: 5 May 2009

Reviewer: Andreas Sauerbrei

Reviewer's report:

General comments:
In this manuscript, the authors describe incidence rates of varicella in the Veneto Region of Italy between 2000 and 2007 using different data sources. Furthermore, the coverage rate of the varicella vaccination in children at the age of 14 months and the rate of protection resulting from the number of vaccinated children and children with varicella history were calculated. However, the results of this study did not reveal new insights regarding epidemiological impact and significance of varicella disease, but they confirm data published previously from other countries. In conclusion, the epidemiological findings and the vaccination coverage data may be of interest for the national vaccination policy in Italy. Therefore, the paper can be recommended for publication in a national medical journal after it was shortened considerably.

Detailed evaluation:
Page 4, paragraph 2: Sentence 1 has to be referenced.
The paper contains several repetitions and should be shortened in the parts introducing and discussion the objectives and the results, respectively. The Method section should contain only details of the materials and methods used for this study.
Figures 1 and 3 can be deleted and described in the text.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

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