Reviewer's report

Title: Do pneumococcal conjugate vaccines provide any cross-protection against serotype 19A?

Version: 2 Date: 9 October 2009

Reviewer: Shally Awasthi

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MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION:
1. In table 1 abbreviations, IPD and AOM must be expanded.
2. The meta-analysis showed 13% (-79 to 58) effectiveness of vaccine containing 19F serotype against 19A serotype. It has to be discussed why the results of the meta-analysis cannot be taken as a stand alone evidence.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION:
1. Explain how the antibiotic burden may effect the vaccine efficacy, and that too selectively against 19A serotype?
2. In table 2, out of 7 studies 3 have been done in US Navajo Apache. Discuss who this will interpret the generalizability of the findings?

DISCRETIONARY REVISION:
1. A summary point is "Efficacy of 7vCRM against 19A invasive pneumococcal disease may only be apparent after the booster dose." What is the evidence to support this?
2. This statement "The limited protective effect provided 7vCRM may be overwhelmed by antibiotic selection pressure, natural fluctuations, and other factors." has to be dropped from summary as there is no supporting data. This is a hypothesis
2. Since such extensive data search was done and there was funding why was another formal meta-analysis not done.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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