Reviewer's report

Title: The multiple meanings for wheezing: a questionnaire survey in Portuguese for parents and health professionals

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Reviewer: Kai-Håkon Carlsen

Reviewer's report:

The present manuscript is of great interest not only to paediatric but also to other studies regarding the epidemiology of asthma. The manuscript is precisely and well written. The message is very important for the understanding of epidemiological studies of asthma. I have only a few minor comments:

1. It would be of interest to refer to that there is limited agreement between written and video questionaires for the term wheeze even when using the English language (Pizzichini MM et al Pediatr Pulmonol 2000 Oct 30 (4):307-12).

2. As English is the only language which contains the term wheeze, and that in translations to other languages must use a description of what is meant with the term, rather than using one single word, the authors should open up for, in their abstract as well in the Discussion and final conclusion, that their findings can be generalised also to other languages, and that the diagnosis of asthma also in epidemiological studies should be based upon clinical examination and possible objective measurements in additions to questionnaires only.

In Conclusion: An important paper which should be made known to the respiratory and allergological society of researchers in general.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.