Reviewer's report

Title: Paracetamol Use (and/or misuse) in Children in Enugu, South-East, Nigeria

Version: 4 Date: 7 June 2012

Reviewer: Urmila M Thatte

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Major Comments

1. Although paracetamol has been referred to in parenthesis in the abstract as acetamoniphen as well, it would be prudent to do so again once in the Introduction of the full paper

2. How many of the children/caregivers were illiterate? This could have an impact on the results

3. It is still not clear how it was confirmed that the child had been given paracetamol and not any other medicine? How reliable was the verbal history of the care-giver in identifying the drug administered as paracetamol? What efforts were made to confirm this? The methods section does not mention (as clarified in the cover note) how it was confirmed that the child/caregiver was referring to paracetamol.

4. It would be better to write the inclusion exclusion criteria in prose form rather than bulleted as is often written in a protocol

5. The second inclusion criterion should read “Children and caregivers in whom informed consent was obtained” Was this written consent? What are the local age levels when children can give legal consent?

6. How was the sample size determined?

7. I had mentioned in my previous review that “the results of the study in no way really convince me that there is potential for overdose as no attempts have been made to find out the knowledge, attitude or practices of the caregivers in determining the dose or administering paracetamol” to which the AUTHORS’ response is: Attempts have now been made to determine the doses of Paracetamol administered and we noted that though majority of the paracetamol administered to our children are self prescribed, yet these children were given appropriate and therapeutic doses of paracetamol by their care givers” I am not clear whether the study was repeated or whether this data was available and not reported earlier. Further the authors find now that there is very minimal overdose/abuse of paracetamol

8. Although the authors have mentioned one limitation, I feel the major limitations include the fact that although the questionnaire was supposed to self administered, there may have been a substantial proportion of illiterate population which led to investigators filling up the questionnaire. A bias could
have crept in eliciting the response. Additionally, many of the respondents were children whose recall may be inadequate.

9. General Comments:

a. The style of the paper is still more in the form of a protocol than a research paper

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.