Reviewer’s report

Title: Burden of acute otitis media in primary care pediatrics in Italy: a secondary data analysis from the Pedianet database

Version: 1 Date: 21 August 2012

Reviewer: David McCormick

Reviewer’s report:

This study reports the incidence of acute otitis media in a population of Italian children. The database is large. Results are given in number of episodes per patient-year, which is helpful for comparison with populations in other countries. Interesting findings are the gradual decrease in diagnosis over time, which has been reported elsewhere, and the increased incidence in the condition at a time when, in Italy, children more often begin day care. Information on the use of the static otoscopy primarily by the pediatricians is also important to note.

No major revisions necessary.

Minor essential revisions:

Page 3, paragraph 2, line one, should read “The incidence of AOM varies....”

Same page, next paragraph, line 8, the available vaccine for H. influenzae does not protect against the non-typeable strains of H. influenzae that are commonly associated with AOM.

Page 4, the first sentence after study population, needs a verb.

Page 6, under diagnostic methods, please clarify the phrase, “...independently from the age of the child....”

First line page 8, typographical error.

Same page, five lines from the top, should read “We did not study....”

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.