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: 29 August 2012

Reviewer: Ann Hermansson

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting paper. Some points could be addressed to make it even better.

Minor essential revisions

In the discussion on why there are different incidences in different studies worldwide I think it could be interesting with a reference to different genetic disposition in different parts of the world.

I think the sentence "Since the introduction of vaccines protecting against the main otopathogens, S. pneumoniae and H. influenzae, there has been continuing interest in defining the incidence and burden of AOM in different populations, including those in which the offer and coverage of heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine has been considerably heterogeneous [21-24]." should be refrased. Vaccine against pnc and Hi doesn not protect against these infections! They will reduce the burden but definitely not protect!

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.