Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with asthma among under-fives in Mulago Hospital Kampala Uganda: a cross sectional study.

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2013

Reviewer: Rebecca Rosenberg

Reviewer’s report:

The authors incorporated and revised the manuscript to a great degree. The abstract can be shortened, especially in methods. The introduction and text throughout would benefit from dropping introductory qualifiers at the beginning of each sentence (such as "Henceforth," "However," "Furthermore" which make it difficult to read). The discussion could use a concise introductory paragraph including overall conclusions of both hypotheses before proceeding to interpret each.

Page 13 has a typo - incomplete sentence ending with "in Mulago". There is a lack of a reference in the middle of page 15. Be consistent when mentioning wheeze, in terms of audible or "history of" v auscultated; it is not clear at some points. I'm not going to pursue it but the PPV of the RSV DFA dependents on the pretest probability and I'm going to assume there is some seasonality to RSV in Uganda. Table 2 should include breakdown of age groups between 2-12 months, 12+24months, and 24-59months. Also, what is the opposite of urban? Rural? is there no inbetween? specify. Table 2 is really your Traditional table 1 and should include all the variables such as allergy, maternal history, etc, to get a sense of the prevalence in the sample.

Tables 3 and 4 need better row labels (takes a minute to know if it is total n or a percentage). Instead of genetic factors would use the term "patient" or "subject" or "personal history" factors. I actually think percentages would be more useful for people rather than listing n, because then we have to do the math. Lastly there is no need to consider bronchiolitis and asthma in children over 24months. This analysis should only include infants 24months or 12 months and younger. In most world literature bronchiolitis is not considered after age 24mo. So the analysis, while appreciated, isn't as relevant.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.