Reviewer's report

Title: Adherence among Italian paediatricians to the Italian Guidelines for the management of fever in children: a cross sectional survey.

Version: 2 Date: 15 October 2013

Reviewer: Rianne Oostenbrink

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the authors did a well job in revising the manuscript. the aim and their results/interpretation is much clearer.

I consider the topic and the current version of the manuscript relevant for the current scientific literature on febrile children. however some remarks can be made.

to well interpreted the range of observations/comparisons they describe, a comment on power needs to be assessed. the idea of using p<0.05 will be sufficiently is wrong. the authors perform many comparisons, in the paper I just counted up to 22, so with a p-value of 0.05 at least one will be found by chance.
in the discussion the authors speak about key principles. it would be worthwhile if they present their observations along the key principles ( that will be less than 20, I suppose), and further mention the other observations less prominently. they are challenged to write down in the methods their hypotheses although with having the results already, one will never be able to check what were their hypotheses on beforehand.

anyway, if they won't change the results section at least a statement in the discussion section is needed.

the other comment concerns their reply on the difference in the before and after population. I think the discussion need to be extended with a paragraph how the lack of demographics and unobserved items in this could have influenced the results. at least the fact that the type of physicians was known to be different in 2009 vs 2012, arise questions and needs attention.