Reviewer’s report

Title: Exploring factors which influence parents’ beliefs about fever and practices in childhood fever management: a cross-sectional study from Palestine

Version: 1 Date: 28 February 2013

Reviewer: Anne Walsh

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Authors

Congratulations on an important study that is well designed and reported. This is a well conducted and presented article situated in contemporary international literature. Inclusion of some additional data relating to the drugs and normal doses in Palestine and identification of the study limitations are needed.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Limitations of the study are not reported and as no study is generally perfect, these should be addressed. Limitations also include potential problems with generalisability.
2. Refraining from beginning sentences with a numeral – e.g., %.
3. Tables: for clarity some minor revisions are required.
   Table 1: children aged less than 5 years – this could be changed to – children’s age in years, similarly for the numbers of those aged over five years.
   Residency could use some explanation under the table – I am unfamiliar with the type of dwelling – camp – and if this is common in Palestine.
4. Table 3: Parents’ methods for managing childhood fever may be a clearer title
   Maximum frequency of antipyretic use does not give much information without the actual drugs used and their frequency of use – you report in the text that Paracetamol was administered too frequently – including this and the other drugs used in the table would benefit readers. Parents could be administering Paracetamol 6 times a day. Inclusion of the dosage for these drugs in Palestine is needed, e.g., Paracetamol 15 mg/kg/dose or 10 mg/kg/dose with daily maximum does of xx mg/kg/day. As a study by pharmacists this would be of use – also to other health professionals working with febrile children and their parents.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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'