Reviewer's report

Title: Coverage and parental perceptions of influenza vaccination among parents of children aged 6 to 23 months in Hong Kong

Version: 2 Date: 13 August 2013

Reviewer: Catherine WEIL-OLIVIER

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Minor Essential revisions

The frame of influenza vaccine recommendations in HK is well taken.

Methods:

« Prospective respondents were briefed by well-trained fieldworkers and invited to join the study »

Some additional information is required about both the « prospective respondents (how were they selected ? Were they representative of the population of HK ?) and the « fieldworkers » (who were they : HCPs ? research people ?)

What were the reasons of the roughly 5% people not completing the questionnaire ?

Results: p12: « About 15% of the respondents reported their index child had had some side effects associated with his/her last episode of IV during the 2005/06 flu season. Fever was the only side effect that was being mentioned (80%) »

Please note that 15% of the 36 children ever vaccinated represents only 5 kids. Thus defining fever (4 kids) is a too small number to be written as a percentage. The HK$ should be at least once correlated to US$ which is a more universal money.

Discussion

- it should be underlined that this survey was done in the 10 years following the official routine recommendation (1994) in the age group targeted by this survey
- how to interpret the fact that among the 36 children ever vaccinated, 34 (>90%) received the vaccine during the year of the survey.

English is much better. Though some sentences should be re written:

P 12 : « Among the 36 children who had been vaccinated before, 12 of the children's most recent IV was also the first IV shot they had ever received in their lifetime (33.3%) However, none of these 12 children had followed up with the required second dose, which is to be taken one month afterwards »
Should be read as follows: « among a total of 36 children having previously been vaccinated, 12 (33.3%) received the first IV shot in their lifetime. However, none of these 12 children had received the required second dose, which is to be given with a one month interval ».

P13: « The results of the multivariate analyses showed that variables for cues to action, including, recommendations provided by health care professionals that the index child should take up IV »

Please suppress the comma between including and recommendations

P16: « improve cognitions on IV among parents of young children. The severity of influenza and efficacies of IV in reducing influenza should be highlighted. »

Please replace « efficacies » by « efficacy »

P17: please explain the following sentence « Family members are significant others of parents of young children ».

P18: « It is known that children of 6 months to 8 years old » could be written « it is known that children aged 6 months to 8 years »

P19: « This finding suggests that children of this age group do not benefit from IV, not only because of the low prevalence of IV coverage but furthermore, .....»

Tables:

P32: Age of the index children at the last IV : 3 months to 12 months : is it really 3 months (or rather 6 months..)

Suggestion: to regroup in a table the cohort of vaccinated children with their current age at the time of the survey, their history of flu vaccination, previous to 2005 (and then the number of doses received) or during the 2005-06 season (and the number of doses they received for their primovaccination)

Bibliography:

to note that except the access to internet site, nearly all references are from mid 2000s or before. The references up to 2009 are from Asia. For a paper published in BMC, some references up to 2013 should be added.

**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:**

no competing interests