Reviewer's report

Title: Timeliness of Childhood Vaccine Uptake among children attending a Tertiary Health Service Facility-based immunisation clinic in Ghana

Version: 2 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: AYEBO A. SADOH

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION

BACKGROUND

This study is on an important aspect of immunization. The authors however do not clearly explain why it is important for vaccines to be received in a timely fashion or the utility of timeliness as a performance indicator. Authors should focus on timeliness of uptake of vaccines and the factors affecting this rather than on effectiveness of vaccines (which they did not study).

METHODS

The authors should include the following information

- are all vaccines given every day?
- explain in detail how they determined timeliness vis-à-vis was the age of the child at receipt of vaccine determined and then compared to the recommended age for receipt of the given vaccine?
- are the time frames suggested the idea of the authors? if not they should be appropriately referenced

ANALYSIS

- how was overall timeliness determined?

How did the following parameters affect timeliness?

- number of visits for ANC,
- place of delivery KATH vs other health facilities
- mode of delivery
- time to reach the facility
- state of health after delivery
- person who took delivery

RESULTS

What was the age of the mothers and their socioeconomic status?

DISCUSSION

The authors did not adequately compare their findings to other studies on timeliness. The only comparison was with Sadoh and Eregie's work. Findings
should be compared with those found in developed and developing countries. Some other works on timeliness from Africa are


The authors should speculate and provide reasons as to why there is delay in receipt of the latter vaccines. What is the implication of this finding and what are their recommendation concerning this? The authors should present findings in the result section before discussing them in the section on discussion eg that children delivered in health facilities other than KATH received some vaccines later.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

ABSTRACT

Conclusion: "Vaccine uptake is mostly timely" Mostly should be included in the first statement.

BACKGROUND: Spelling correction - Bacille

Nigeria introduced HiB in 2012.

2nd Paragraph first sentence should read "vaccine administration at recommended age is important as such recommendations are based on the estimation of the age at which a child's risk for target diseases is highest" In which setting is lack of timely administration of vaccines uncommon?

10th line of 2nd paragraph insert "such" as age appropriate

The sentence "The low proportion of hospital deliveries............" is not clear

METHODS

Use the sentence "Written informed consent was obtained from all respondents"

Delete "ANC and delivery histories" as this is covered by antenatal records and delivery details in the subsequent sentence.

Was it distance that was ascertained or time to get to the facility? What maternal information was obtained?

DISCUSSION

2nd sentence in first paragraph is not clear. Is KATH expected to have results that are better or worse than the national trends?

What is the reason for the studied population having a higher ANC coverage than the national average? Delete "although 98.8% still seems high"

That KATH does not offer outreach services is irrelevant to this study.

The first sentence in the third paragraph is not clear

CONCLUSION
The second paragraph is not borne out of the reported findings of this study.

REFERENCES
Check that these conform to journal style.

TABLES
Table on overall timeliness: Do these numbers refer to vaccine doses? if so clearly state so
Table on timeliness of vaccine uptake for specific vaccines: Please provide a legend for this table

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 HAVE NO COMPETING INTERESTS