Reviewer's report


Version: 1 Date: 11 January 2007

Reviewer: Helen Bedford

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

This is an interesting topic and since parents' views are a fundamentally important determinant of vaccine uptake and it is important to establish their views about any potential vaccine. However it is also difficult to ask questions about what a person might do in an hypothetical situation and this possible limitation of the study should be discussed. Furthermore, no information is provided about non responders who may have very different views from responders. It is likely that parents who are more positive about immunisation are more likely to have responded thus biasing these findings.

The methods are appropriate to answer the research question. The authors report that parents were asked their knowledge of hepatitis B disease. It would be important to include information on how precisely this question was phrased. For example simply asking if they have heard about the disease would not establish very much information for example whether their knowledge about the disease was accurate, what they understood of the effects of the disease and perhaps some measure of their perception of the severity of the disease could have been included.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The paper is clearly written and understandable apart from a few minor typographical errors.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 conducted work around a similar issue ie acceptibility of potential vaccines in the UK, which is yet to be submitted for publication.