Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of measles Immunity among Infants in Maputo City, Mozambique.

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2008

Reviewer: Marcela F Pasetti

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This is a very interesting, concise and well-written manuscript describing the assessment of measles immunity among infants in Mozambique. It conveys the message that the level of protection in infants 6 to 9 months of age in Maputo, Mozambique, is very low and the rates of seroconversion (and protection) after vaccination are significantly lower than expected.

Comments:

It is intriguing that several infants who were apparently healthy tested positive for measles IgM before vaccination. One would expect increased levels of IgM in oral fluid (higher in serum) during or immediately after infection.

It will be helpful to include the results from the IgM measles oral fluid test both in the 6 and the 9-month old as well as the post-vaccination IgM and IgG data in the tables.

The authors propose to increase vaccine coverage to reduce wild type virus circulation. Another alternative would be the use of vaccine strategies that can safely prime immune responses early in life bypassing the pre-existing antibodies (either from the mothers or acquired through contact with circulating virus).

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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