Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring nasal bacterial load in children at low and high risk of tympanic membrane perforation

Version: 2 Date: 14 December 2005

Reviewer: Alberto LEIBERMAN

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a very interesting paper concerning the correlation between bacterial load from swabs from the nose and ear infection severity. However, the way to present the study and the results are not sufficiently expressed and clear, it was very difficult for me to follow the way of the study and the results. In my opinion this paper the questions posed by the authors are new but not well defined, the methods are not well described and the discussion is not well balanced, also the title and the abstract does not reflect the purpose of the paper. This paper may be reconsidered follow a major rewriting in order to clarify the purpose of the paper, to present the materials and methods, the results and the discussion in a clear and understandable way to the reader.

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

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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)

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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 of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'