Reviewer's report

Title: Global Epidemiology of Invasive Meningococcal Disease

Version: 1 Date: 22 November 2012

Reviewer: David Pace

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

This review gives a descriptive picture of the global epidemiology of meningococcal disease over the last 20 years. It could be improved by discussing the recent emerging serogroups e.g. Y in Europe and X in Africa and what can be done or should be planned to address these problems.

Minor essential revisions

Overall: Data should be referred to in plural not as singular: e.g. data are NOT data is: this error should be corrected in all sections of the manuscript.

Pg 4: Introduction: 3rd sentence: Can the authors produce more updated estimates of IMD worldwide? The reference quoted (Reference number 1) dates back to 2001.

Pg 5: Methods section: Clarify if all 5336 articles were retrieved and used for the data collection as this is unclear.

Figure 1: Remove the axis gridlines as these do not provide any useful information.

Table 1: Since the authors are comparing incidence rates of IMD between different countries it would be more appropriate to include what methods were used to diagnose IMD in each country.

Table 1 Pg 7: Include which serogroup B vaccine was used in Uruguay in the Comments column

Figure 2: Place B,C in a more central position over Europe to make it more clear that these serogroups are predominant in the European Area (as it stands it seems to just be referring to Eastern European countries)

Pg 12: Mention serogroup X in the section on the African region

Pg 12: Mention the increasing trends of serogroup Y in Europe

Pg 13: Region of the Americas: mention the emergence of serogroup Y which now causes about 30% of all cases of IMD

Pg 13: Line 10: quadrivalent not ‘quadravelent’
Pg 14: Age specific attack rates: 2nd paragraph: it is not just antibiotics which has brought down the CFR of IMD but also advances in intensive care.

Pg 15: Conclusion
Please be specific by mentioning that the conjugate serogroup A vaccine was licensed in Africa.

**Level of interest:** An exceptional article

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.