Reviewer's report

**Title:** Rhinosinusitis in morbidity registrations in Dutch General Practice: A retrospective case-control study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 3 June 2015

**Reviewer:** Herbert Riechelmann

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The authors present data from two general practice morbidity registries (CMR and TP) in The Netherlands. The data were gathered between 1985 and 2006. Mainly incidence data on acute rhinosinusitis were exploitable. The authors report incidence rates of 18.8 per 1000 patient years in one registry and 28.7 per 1000 patient years in the other. This is in line with other data reported from The Netherlands cited by the authors. The authors compared other morbidities in rhinosinusitis and non-rhinosinusitis patients in these two registries to explore for possible risk factors or comorbid conditions. Moreover, age, gender and social class differences were evaluated.

Overall, registry data on the incidence of acute rhinosinusitis in general practices in Europe are of interest.

**Major compulsory revisions:**

Some aspects remained unclear and should be further detailed:

a) Based on a recurrence code, the authors can distinguish between incidence and prevalence (p6, last para).

b) What is “literature” (p7, last para)?

c) Are nasal polyps a comorbid condition of rhinosinusitis (p7, last para)?

d) In the statistical analysis part, the denominators of the odds should be mentioned. The authors arbitrarily choose an OR of more than 3 or an lower 95% CI bound to attest relevance. What is the rationale for this? (p8, 2nd para)

e) If the data base does not allow to differentiate between ARS and CRS, it might be wise not to try to differentiate, but use the term RS.

f) If no data on prescribed treatments are available, it might be wise not to speculate about this (p 12, 3rd para) but refer to data published in a previous publication.

**minor:**

consider unambiguous insted of uni-interpretable

**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: none