Reviewer's report

Title: Viral etiology of community-acquired pneumonia among adolescents and adults with mild or moderate severity and its relation to age and severity

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Reviewer: Tytti Vuorinen

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MS: Jiuxin et al. Viral etiology of community-acquired pneumonia among adolescents and adults with mild or moderate severity and its relation to age and severity

The etiology of community acquired pneumonia in adolescents and adults were investigated using multiplex PCR test for several respiratory viruses and urinary antigen testing, culture and PCR for Str. Pneumoniae, L. pneumophila and M. pneumoniae. Also pneumonia severity index was calculated. The study population consisted of 954 patients during over a two years' period. The proportion of respiratory virus findings was 27.5 %.

The impact of respiratory viruses in the etiology of community acquired pneumonia has been increasingly recognized. The role of respiratory viruses have been underestimated due to lack of sensitive methods to detect a wide range of viruses. The availability of multiplex PCR tests have increased the detection rate of viruses. The authors report their observations on the role of respiratory viruses in community acquired pneumonia. The study confirms recently reported results from other study groups that respiratory viruses indeed have an important role in community acquired pneumonia.

I would like to pay authors' attention on some aspects. First of all, if an upper respiratory tract sample is used this does not prove direct causation in pneumonia, because detection of virus in the nasopharynx may represent coincidental upper respiratory tract infection or even an asymptomatic infection. Therefore the authors should use term probable etiology instead of a definitive etiology and discus about this more properly.

Please, write result section in a right tense. Pay also attention how to express microbiological findings through out the text. For example: Fifteen Streptococcus pneumoniae had been detected by urine antigen test. Modify: Str. pneumoniae was detected by antigen detection from urine samples of five patients or Str. pneumonia antigen detection was positive from urine samples of five patients.

I suggest that a native speaker should revise the language and go through sentence structures.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited.

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests* below.