Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of Streptococcus pneumoniae nasopharyngeal colonization on the clinical outcome of the respiratory tract infections in preschool children

Version: 3 Date: 12 May 2015

Reviewer: Nicole Wolter

Reviewer’s report:

I am satisfied that the authors have addressed the recommended revisions adequately.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Background, second paragraph, line 56: Sentence should be rephrased as “Many recent studies emphasize the contribution of Spn to severe diseases such as …..”
2. Methods, line 115: Bile solubility is used to confirm the identity of a culture as S. pneumoniae and therefore the inability to perform bile solubility on the cultures would have resulted in the observation of false positives (Streptococcus species other than SPn that also show optochin sensitivity), and the overestimation of the prevalence of carriage in this population as opposed to “lost positive samples” as described in the paper.
3. Results: lines 158-159: please include in the text what was used as the reference group for this comparison.
4. Results, line 191: This statement refers to Table 3 and not Table 2 as indicated.
5. Discussion, last sentence: please see point 2 above with regards to the use of bile solubility. It would be used to identify true positive Spn results, and not false negatives as indicated.
6. Table 1: Check percentage values for the Male and Female proportions for the sites – the total % male and % female should be 100% for each site.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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