Reviewer’s report

Title: Streptococcus pneumoniae and Haemophilus influenzae in paediatric meningitis patients at Goroka General Hospital, Papua New Guinea: serotype distribution and antimicrobial susceptibility in the pre-vaccine era

Version: 0 Date: 17 Jul 2015

Reviewer: David Lye

Reviewer’s report:

This is an impressive surveillance work from 1996 to 2005 continuing from the senior author's early work in Papua New Guinea. It provided useful information on vaccine serotype coverage and antimicrobial resistance of importance in S pneumoniae and H influenzae in children.

My comments are mainly to clarify some inconsistency:

(1) Line 40, please verify that it was 88.8% and not 91.5% stated in the text on line 157.

(2) Please adopt consistent US spelling which is evident in the rest of the manuscript:

Line 46, "recognised"
Line 116, "paediatrician"
Line 319, "paediatric"
Line 326, "recognised"

(3) Line 48, please spell EPI in full

(4) Line 124, please change to "well established in this setting"

(5) Line 152, please clarify timing of CSF collection in relation to antibiotic. This will impact on yield of CSF. If the information is not available, please state so in methods.

(6) Lines 162-165, please clarify if there were any clinical symptoms and signs of infection. Was this CSF with S aureus related to neurosurgery or with neurosurgical instrumentation such as external ventricular drains? The dismissal of a potential pathogen with very limited information (namely lack of PMN in CSF) is problematic.

(7) There is no need to show X2 and degree of freedom; please state only P value: lines 175, 177, 181, 183, 247.

(8) Line 247, please clarify if the information on Hib isolation rate from CSF was from the present study. If so, it should be in the results before discussing in discussion section.
(9) Table 1, please clarify if it was 377 or 375 (mentioned in results section).

(10) Table 3, please clarify the median MIC for ceftriaxone. 124 isolates tested for ceftriaxone, 1 found to be intermediate (MIC=1) and none resistant (MIC >=2), hence odd to have median MIC of 1.

(11) Table 4, please delete column 4 (1996-2005) as the table compared 1996-2000 with 2001-2005, hence this total information adds little.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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