Reviewer’s report

Title: The Landscape of Vaccines in China: History, Classification, Supply, and Price

Version: 0 Date: 03 May 2018

Reviewer: Chiara de Waure

Reviewer's report:

The paper "The Landscape of Vaccines in China: History, Classification, Supply, and Price" depicts China situation with respect to vaccination providing interesting insights in the Chinese landscape that, anyway, make the paper of limited interest for the international reader. This is my major concerns. The paper is rather fluid and accountable with respect to sources used, even though there are some aspects that could be implemented and are as follows.

1. General organization of the paper: in my opinion the paper should take into account the different items (vaccination history and immunization policies, classification, supply and prices of vaccines) in the same order both in methods and in results.

Introduction

2. Authors should provide references for the EPI and the assessment by WHO in 2010 and 2014.

Methods

3. High- and middle-income countries considered for comparison are not explicated. Several times Authors referred to selected European but, eventually, they considered United States, United Kingdom and BRICS countries. Furthermore, in some parts of the paper, Authors refer to WHO recommendation for all countries.

4. The specification of vaccines belonging to categories 1 and 2 should be addressed earlier in the paper, in the paragraph "History, vaccine categories and vaccines".

5. The study period should be justified (2007-2015).
Results

6. Authors quoted "In China, 25 diseases are preventable by 50 vaccines". I would encourage Authors to add some details about the number of VPDs that may be actually prevented in China as compared to the rest of the world.

7. Authors quoted "Procurement prices of EPI-substitute vaccines (Category 2 vaccines against diseases preventable by Category 1 vaccines) were higher than for their EPI equivalents". This sentence is not clear in my opinion. Were not category 1 vaccines free of charge?

Discussion

8. Authors quoted "Especially notable is the lack Hib, ORV, PCV, influenza, and HPV vaccines, which are recommended by WHO for all countries' national immunization programs.". This sentence should be further elaborated as these vaccines are not lacking in China but they are not included in the EPI.

9. Authors quoted "tetanus was verified to be eliminated in 2012". Did the Authors refer to maternal/neonatal tetanus? Furthermore, no references were provided.

Figures

10. In figure 5 Authors refer to European countries and UNICEF. As told before, Authors did not specify which European countries they took into account. The caption reports "(6.2 Chinese Renminbi per USD)"; what does it mean? Furthermore, Authors should report details in methods about extraction (and conversion/correction, if any) of vaccines cost data from the different sources used.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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