Reviewer’s report

Title: Effectiveness of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccination against Invasive Pneumococcal Disease among children with and those without HIV infection: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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Reviewer: Aran Singanayagam

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript by Vardanjani et al examines a topic of interest - effectiveness of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in children with and without HIV infection. The authors take a meta-analysis based approach to this question.

The major concerns are with lack of clarity in writing. For example, in the abstract, the authors state that 'the effectiveness of PCV against IPD among HIV-infected children is much less limited in real situation and even it might increase overall incidence of IPD. This is not a particularly clear sentence or conclusion. Why do the authors think the vaccine might increase IPD? What do they speculate could be the reason for this, if it is true? In general, the manuscript needs to be improved in terms of clarity and precision.

The study includes some complex statistical analyses that are beyond the scope of my expertise - I would recommend sending to a specialist statistical reviewer

Meta-analyses can be rather dry in subject matter, but regardless of this, the authors do not do a particularly good job of writing this in a way that will be of interest to a general infectious diseases reader. Particularly with the results section, they need to more carefully and clearly describe the reason for the analyses/sub-analyses carried out and give more justification to make it easier and more interesting to read.

The discussion section requires some improvement - the authors need to more clearly state the importance/implications of the findings and relate to existing literature/concepts more coherently.

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.

Unable to assess
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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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