Reviewer’s report

Title: Nasopharyngeal carriage, spa types and antibiotic susceptibility profiles of Staphylococcus aureus from healthy children less than 5 years in Eastern Uganda

Version: 1 Date: 21 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Samuel Taiwo

Reviewer's report:

Assessment criteria

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

- Authors clearly defined the research question and generated hypothesis

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

- The study was nested on previous studies but authors will need to clarify issues on the appropriateness of S. aureus isolates used from these previous studies for the current study (that was designed for children under 5 years of age).

- The laboratory methods used were appropriate and well described

3. Are the data sound?

- The data are sound but authors will need to clarify the effects of issues raised above on the data used

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

- Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

- Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

- The limitations of the study (being cross sectional) were clearly stated and attempts were made to address some of the limitations
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

- Yes, clearly

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

- Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?

- Acceptable but with Minor Revisions

Minor Revisions

Abstract

Line 42: Authors to correct error highlighted in the attached revised and 'tracked' manuscript

Line 43: Authors to correct highlighted error

Line 46: Authors to add "MSSA"

Introduction

Line 73: Authors to correct as "Haemophilus"

Methods

Line 86: Authors to address comments and issues concerning study design

Line 91: Authors to address comments

Results

Line 149: Authors to address issues/comments

Line 165: Authors to add "to"

Line 168: Authors to correct highlighted errors

Line 190: Authors to add "MSSA"
Discussion

Line 234: Authors to add "other"

Line 271: Authors to add "back to"

Line 273: Authors to rephrase statement

Line 316: Authors to address issues/comments

Line 317: Authors to address issues/comments

Level of interest

The findings of this article are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English

- Acceptable

Statistical review

- The manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests

- I declare that I have no competing interests

- Accept with minor revisions

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.

Yes

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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