Reviewer's report

Title: The presentation of a short adapted questionnaire to measure asthma knowledge of parents

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Reviewer: Francesca Santamaria

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Epidemiological and intervention studies in pediatric pulmonary diseases often rely on proxy's reports of respiratory symptoms in questionnaires. This is key also to estimating the knowledge of parents of asthmatic children, and thus improving their level of care.

In this manuscript Franken et al pose a well defined question: to determine the value of an already validated international asthma knowledge questionnaire to establish asthma knowledge of parents of children (0-18 years) with asthma. They conducted a small, but good study, and their results are interesting. We have some concerns about Methods, that need to be addressed to authors.

METHODS

- The methods are appropriate and well described. However, in their study population authors also include a 26% proportion of preschool children. Preschool wheezing represents a well-defined pediatric population with respiratory complaints. Evidence suggests that parents and health care professionals differ in their perceptions of "wheezing" [Cane RS, 2000]. Some parents confuse "wheezing" with other respiratory sounds, while others perceive it as something other than a sound [Elphick HE, 2001]. These different concepts may be a source of bias in survey results, with a considerable impact on wheezing and/or overall asthma prevalence estimates.

- We do understand that the original questionnaire used [Rodriguez-Martinez CE, Arch Bronconeumol, 2005] does not separate questions to parents of preschool children from questions to parents of older subjects. Nevertheless, authors should at least comment on this.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION appear quite sound.
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.

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?  
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I am able to assess the statistics

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