Reviewer’s report

Title: Pertussis detection in children with cough of any duration

Version: 1 Date: 02 May 2019

Reviewer: Pierre Goussard

Reviewer's report:

Review Pertussis

Dear Editor

The authors present an interesting study. The following needs addressing.

Exclusion criteria: Children with asthma and immunodeficiency have been excluded, these children may be potential cases. The reasons for this needs to be explained

Definition: Only confirmed cases must be used for study

X-rays details was exclude , this needs to be included in this study to add to the clinical findings and to exclude other conditions.

The methods is very long and contains a lot of microbiological detail , which should be check by a specialist in this field.

Vaccine schedule must be provided

Consent : There is no consent info both patient and institution consent ?

Among 320 patients initially approached, eight were excluded because their parents either 223 declined to participate or their specimens were inappropriate. :

This sentence does not make sense ? Was consent not taken ?

Apnea and cyanosis.: Age group have to be provided

The combination of pertussis and other pathogens must be provided

There is many cases of combined infection which will influence the cough symptoms

Children less than 2 weeks were exclude. Positive cases would have been excluded by this.
Some of the cases may have been previously infected and is not acute cases, especially those with other viruses.

The discussion is too vague and must be more clear.

**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?**
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

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

Acceptable

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