Reviewer's report

Title: Burden of varicella in Latin America and the Caribbean: findings from a systematic literature review

Version: 0 Date: 13 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Hannah Hussey

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written review article. My main concern is that the methodology is not completely clear and systematic at all times. 24 articles were found in an appropriately systematic manner. Then an additional 6 Spanish articles were added, that were not picked up in the initial literature search. I appreciate that South America is producing research in English, Spanish and Portuguese and that this will make collating the data from the continent difficult. But how do we know that there were not more Spanish language articles that were eligible to be included, but were not, as they were not recommended by scientific leaders in LAC, like the 6 articles were?

In addition a number of studies and other sources of data were identified in the grey literature. How many exactly? If you are reporting their findings as part of the review results, they (along with the 6 Spanish articles), need to be indicated in the PRISMA diagram. It would also helpful when reporting the results to make it explicit, if the data you are discussing is from the systematic review, the 6 extra articles, or the grey literature, as they are all discussed together and it is at times difficult to find out what information came from where.

A systematic review looking at the epidemiology of varicella in South America was published by Bardach in 2012. It is now 6 years old and requires updating. How does this review tie in with the previous one? What does it add? Does it support the findings or Bardach or not?

While this study is not deeply flawed, it still has limitations, and these need to be discussed at some point please.
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.

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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