Reviewer’s report

Title: Respiratory Syncytial Virus prophylaxis for prevention of recurrent childhood wheeze and asthma: a protocol for a systematic review

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Reviewer: Addisu Melese

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's comments

Title: add asthma together with wheezing. Asthma is described many times in the abstract and body of the manuscript. So, the title better be written as "Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) prophylaxis for prevention of recurrent childhood wheezing and asthma: a protocol for a systematic review"

Abstract

Line 27: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)-related… Is it RSV related or RSV caused LRTI infection? It will be better if RSV caused otherwise it will be difficult to establish RSV prophylaxis with prevention of wheezing. In addition, is it wheezing only or including asthma?

The title is about wheezing but asthma was indicated many times in the abstract.

Lines 34-36: Can be inserted as separately as an objective

Lines 36-39: Not clear! As this manuscript is a protocol, it is difficult generate evidence supporting the hypothesis at this time.

Lines 41-48: Which databases will be searched? And where unpublished data be looked manually? What is GRADE? (Better to use its long form in the abstract/at its first appearance) What type of studies will be included? Is the meta-analysis already done or why you reported as it is carried out). How could you declare the model (random effects model) you are going to use at this stage of study? How heterogeneity will be measured? Which statistical methods will be employed for the meta-analysis? Which statistical software will be used?

Line 50: What if there is no causal association? And include asthma in the title or remove from the discussion.

Line 92: What does NHS mean?

Lines 117-119: Not clear! What are the notable side effects?
Lines 130-135: This part is better to be taken to the first part of the background as it describes the characteristics of the virus itself.

Lines 147-148: a number of databases…. Which notable databases will you be searching?

Line 160: Why matched cohort studies? What about unmatched one?

Line 161: Which period includes early preterm to term?

Line 163: "…No adult studies will be included in the analysis" This population is not your study subject from the very beginning; so can't be part of exclusion criteria. The title is among children too.

Table 1: Adults can't be exclusion criteria

Table 2: Is the search already done or why the search results are included in the protocol?

Line 230: Is the discussion shall on asthma or wheezing? Better to modify/add asthma in the title

Lines 203-211: How studies assessed? Which quality assessment tools are to be used? What is GRADE?

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