**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Oral prednisolone for acute otitis media in children: a pilot, pragmatic, randomised, open-label, controlled study (OPAL study)

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 14 Dec 2019

**Reviewer:** Dennis Wooley

**Reviewer's report:**

Given the over prescribing of antibiotics and the potential for antibiotic resistance, the objectives of the study are worth investigation. In regard to feasibility, the authors have learned much as how to design a large RCT, and your statistical analysis is robust. Reducing potential bias, blinding the patients, parents, and nurses would have added strength to the design and more creditability to the findings. However, the researchers recruited children in a way that minimized selection bias.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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