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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-56971**

Title: *Pneumonia in the Republic of Kazakhstan: Epidemiological Analysis (2019–2023)*

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul

Reviewer's Comment

This manuscript presents an epidemiological analysis of pneumonia morbidity and mortality in Kazakhstan over the period 2019–2023, with particular emphasis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Using official data from the Ministry of Health and relevant literature, the study examines temporal trends, age-specific patterns, and regional variations.

The topic is relevant and timely, especially given the global importance of respiratory diseases and the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare systems. The manuscript contributes by providing country-specific insights and highlighting post-pandemic epidemiological shifts, which are valuable for public health planning and policy.

Scientific Contribution and Analytical Depth

The manuscript provides a clear descriptive overview of pneumonia trends in Kazakhstan, particularly the sharp increase in incidence and mortality during 2020 and the subsequent decline in later years. The differentiation between adult and pediatric populations is a notable strength, as it highlights distinct epidemiological patterns, including the comparatively milder impact on children.

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The regional analysis, identifying higher incidence rates in industrial and colder regions such as Pavlodar and Aktobe, adds further value to the study. The discussion linking these variations to climatic and demographic factors is relevant, though it remains somewhat speculative.

However, the analytical depth could be strengthened. The manuscript primarily presents descriptive findings, with limited critical engagement or statistical interpretation. The relationships between variables—such as vaccination, regional disparities, and age differences—could be explored more systematically. Additionally, some claims, particularly those explaining causal mechanisms, would benefit from stronger empirical or literature-based support.

Methodology and Analytical Approach

The study relies on official statistical data and adopts a comparative descriptive approach, which is appropriate for an epidemiological overview. The use of longitudinal data across five years allows for meaningful trend analysis.

Nevertheless, the methodological section is brief and would benefit from further elaboration. The manuscript does not clearly specify analytical techniques, inclusion criteria, or limitations of the data. The absence of statistical testing or detailed analytical methods limits the robustness of the conclusions. Clarifying these aspects would significantly enhance the scientific rigor of the study.

Structure, Style, and Presentation

The manuscript follows a standard structure, including abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. The inclusion of figures illustrating incidence, mortality, and regional variation (Figures 1–3, pp. 5–7) supports the presentation of findings and improves readability.

However, there are notable issues related to language and presentation. The manuscript contains grammatical inconsistencies, awkward phrasing, and typographical errors, particularly in the discussion section. Some sentences lack clarity and precision, which affects readability. Careful language editing is required.

Additionally, figure captions and descriptions could be improved for clarity, and the integration of figures into the discussion could be more explicit.

Title Evaluation and Suggestion

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The current title is clear and generally appropriate. However, it could be made slightly more precise by emphasizing the COVID-19 context and analytical focus. A suggested revision is:

“Epidemiology of Pneumonia in Kazakhstan (2019–2023): Trends, Regional Patterns, and the Impact of COVID-19”

Specific Observations

The manuscript appropriately identifies the role of vaccination and public health measures in reducing pneumonia incidence after 2020, but this relationship would benefit from more detailed explanation or supporting evidence.

The discussion on pediatric outcomes is relevant, though the explanation of biological mechanisms is brief and could be expanded or supported with additional references.

Final Recommendation

Overall, the manuscript addresses an important public health issue and provides useful descriptive insights into pneumonia trends in Kazakhstan. The use of national data and the focus on the pandemic period are significant strengths.

With minor revisions focusing on improving methodological clarity, strengthening analytical depth, refining language and presentation, and enhancing interpretation of results, the manuscript is suitable for publication.

Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.