Reviewer’s report

Title: Three novel mutations in the lactase gene (LCT) underlying congenital lactase deficiency (CLD)

Version: 1 Date: 8 August 2008

Reviewer: Dallas M Swallow

Reviewer’s report:

Major points
There are errors in the English. This is largely an issue of incorrect use of definite and indefinite articles and pronouns.

It needs careful checking by an English speaking person. For example throughout weight should be stated as ‘his weight’

Some sentences are unclear;
• Since the reports by Holzel et al, published data about CLD in continental Europe and other parts of the world cannot be found.—please reword
• The Blosum62 score for substitution from serine to proline is -1 (range from -4 to +11; low to high probability of substitution).[17]
   --this sentence makes no sense to me—(there is either a substitution or not).
• It is noteworthy, that in these two conditions the values of lactase activity are partially overlapping despite of different underlying molecular mechanism.[2, 5-8, 10] Therefore, further studies are needed to explain the phenotype-genotype-correlation in human lactase deficiencies.-
   --this sentence seems not to make any sense. The difference from adult hypolactasia is that these people had normal levels as small children

Minor (essential) points
Why is case 3 described as case 3 and 4?
Typographical error. Chance on page 12 line 4 should read change
The diagram of the gene with the active sites is inaccurately drawn—and not all four are thought to be functional. The spacing between the two pairs should be about 200 amino-acids. Please ammend

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'