Reviewer's report

Title: Symptoms and sources of Yersinia enterocolitica -infection: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 29 January 2010

Reviewer: Jugsharan Virdi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions (The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation).

Case control studies related to Yersinia enterocolitica are important and need to be reported to the scientific community.

In Table 1, the analysis pertaining to percentage of men is not very relevant to epidemiology of Yersinia enterocolitica and should be excluded from this table.

Data given in Table 1 and Table 2 reiterate some of the earlier observations reported from other parts of the world. However this reiteration is worth reporting. Thus the whole MS needs to be reframed from the data presented in these two tables.

The data related to the sources of infection (Table 3) is very rudimentary and there are not enough patients in each source to arrive at any significant or unequivocal results. In view of this, the authors need to analyse a larger sample of patients or else this data should be deleted.

Minor Essential Revisions (The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes).

The abbreviation NBT for non-typeable strains is not appropriate and should be avoided.

The reference related to low lactose-diet and its relationship to Yersinia enterocolitica is not substantiated by the presented data and it should be deleted from the text.

In the bibliography, citation no. 23 needs to be written properly.

Discretionary Revisions (These are recommendations for improvement, which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.