Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of Microbiological Culture and Real-time PCR for the Detection of Invasive Salmonella serovars in Blood and Bone Marrow Specimens from Enteric fever Patients

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Reviewer: E. Fidelma Boyd

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written and important study examining the utility of PCR based methods for the detection of S. typhi and S. paratyphi in clinical specimens of blood and bone marrow. The methodology and controls are all appropriate and the data appears sound. The overall result is that even PCR has a limit to its detection rate. This study also calls into question other studies that propose that PCR can be use to detect S. Typhi in a clinical setting. One comment I have is on the specificity of the Salmonella internal control, what region or gene was this internal control designed from. And how many Salmonella serovars was it tested against?

One suggestion is that the title of the manuscript should reflect more the outcome of the study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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