Reviewer's report

Title: The Prevalence of Norovirus in Returning International Travelers with Diarrhea

Version: 1 Date: 12 February 2010

Reviewer: David Allen

Reviewer's report:

General Comments
In this manuscript, Apelt et al discuss the rate at which norovirus was detected in travellers returning to Germany both with and without symptoms of gastroenteritis. The authors find that around 15% of travellers returning to Germany with symptomatic gastroenteritis were norovirus-positive.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author may choose to ignore)

1. Line 179: the authors claim that their finding of a norovirus infection rate of 15.7% was “exceptionally high”: whereas a recently published systematic review of the epidemiology of travellers’ diarrhoea (TD) suggest 15% of cases of TD are due to norovirus (DuPont (2009) Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther. 30:187-196).

2. Results section: a large amount of data is presented in the text which becomes difficult to follow. This may be better presented as a series of tables and/or figures, leading to a clearer presentation of the authors’ results and conclusions.

Minor Essential Revisions (which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Line 120 & Line 128: there appears to be a reference to a table, however no table was supplied: the authors should remove the reference or supply a table.

Major Compulsory Revisions (to which the author must respond before a decision on publication)

1. Lines 134-139: the paragraph seems to be confused as the authors appear to be claiming that patients without diarrhoea were more likely to have visited regions associated with a higher risk of contracting TD.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.