Reviewer's report

Title: High-throughput bacterial SNP typing identifies distinct clusters of Salmonella Typhi causing typhoid in Nepalese children

Version: 1 Date: 23 October 2009

Reviewer: Susanna Esposito

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The paper of Holt et al. evaluated genetic variation in the genomes of 62 Salmonella typhi isolates from children admitted to Patan hospital in Katmandu, Nepal, from April 2005 to December 2006. The topic is interesting, although more clinical data are useful to improve the significance of the results. Please find below major comments.

1. The background has to be summarized, with study’s objectives better presented and conclusions not included in this section.
2. Statistical analysis has to be added in the methods.
3. Comments on the results have not to be included in the results section, but in the discussion.
4. No information on clinical characteristics is available despite the title of the paragraph. This part is mandatory. Data on disease’s severity (including entity of dehydration and duration of symptoms) have to be added
5. Discussion has to be re-written considering the clinical implications of the authors’ findings