Reviewer's report

Title: Parvovirus B19 infection and severe anaemia in Kenyan children: a retrospective case control study

Version: 2 Date: 14 December 2009

Reviewer: Giorgio Bedogni

Reviewer's report:

I was asked to review this paper as BMC statistical referee. I was blinded to the reviews made by the other referees.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The McNemar test (not “McNamar”, please correct) is appropriate for the study design. I suppose, however, that you calculated exact p-values and confidence intervals because of the low frequency of events. Do you confirm?

2. The main conclusion of your report is that the highest OD values of B19-IgM were found among cases. Please, report the odds-ratio and its exact 95%CI for this effect as it is much more informative than the p-value.

3. You do not mention whether “additional” testing for malaria parasites (just P. falciparum?) was pre-specified by the study protocol (as I suppose).

4. Quote your previous study in the first line of the discussion.

5. Figure 1: specify what the interval around the point-estimate is.

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

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