Reviewer's report

Title: Seroprevalence of transfusion-transmissible infections and evaluation of the pre-donation screening performance at the Provincial Hospital of Tete, Mozambique

Version: 2 Date: 20 April 2011

Reviewer: Runu Chakravarty

Reviewer's report:

Bottieau et al studied seroprevalence of major transfusion-transmissible infections (TTIs) like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and Syphilis among blood donors at the Provincial Hospital of Tete, Mozambique, and assessed the local donation screening performance. They reported high seroprevalence of all the TTIs even after questionnaire screening except HCV infection. The questionnaire did not exclude effectively HIV-infected donor candidates, while the locally used assays led to unnecessary rejection of many safe donations. As Africa has the highest transfusion needs in the world, together with the highest prevalence of blood-borne pathogens and the weakest transfusion programs, this work is of importance and can be accepted for publication.

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