Reviewer’s report

Title: Inconvenience due to travelers' diarrhea: a prospective follow-up study

Version: 1 Date: 21 May 2011

Reviewer: Robert Steffen

Reviewer’s report:

Essentially this is a well-conceived and very well-presented report on the impact of TD. The authors use an unusual definition for TD, in most papers at least one additional symptom is a requirement — but they included also the 'classic TD' definition. The response rate of 52% is a bit low, but acceptable for such a study.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS: none

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS
1) Do Dutch people understand the word ‘tenesmus’ or did you explain?
2) Add definition on ‘two weeks stay’ — any two weeks, first two weeks?
3) Add definition of one day incapacitation: #24 hours, or one ‘daylight day’?
4) Add definition on cumulative incidence

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS
1) Strongly suggest in Background, line 11 to add the reference on the Expert Review on TREATMENT of TD by DuPont, particularly as you have ref. 11 the review on PREVENTION.
2) Staying in luxury hotels as risk factor is no real surprise (probably mentioned in Steffen et al.’ Jamaica’, JAMA 1999: our interpretation is that more elaborate food bears more risks, e.g. may also be arranged with fingers.
3) You might mention that increasingly there is concern about buying antibiotics abroad, many being false.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

Yes, I have been or still am PI in studies on prevention and treatment of TD in India (Intercell, DrFalk Pharma) and I have received honoraria for lectures by Johnson&Johnson, Santarus, Salix.