Reviewer's report

**Title:** Seroprevalence of Toxoplasma gondii and associated risk factors among pregnant women in Jimma Town, Southwest Ethiopia

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**Reviewer:** Geoff Hide

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Seroprevalence of Toxoplasma gondii and associated risk factors among pregnant women in Jimma Town, Southwest Ethiopia

Zemene et al.

In this paper the authors set out to investigate the prevalence of the parasite Toxoplasma gondii and the associated risk factors in pregnant women in South West Ethiopia. Pregnant women are an important risk group as infection during pregnancy can cause miscarriage and significant defects to the foetus/newborn. Using standard serological approaches, they found extremely high prevalences of nearly 84% in pregnant women with 2.5% showing IgM responses (characteristic of acute infection).

Any study recruiting 200+ human subjects is challenging and this is no exception. The study is conducted carefully with consideration of the sampling strategy and numbers, detection methods and analysis. All methods conducted are using standard well defined processes and therefore are robust. The conclusions justify the results.

Minor Essential Revisions:

I have a number of comments that the authors should address:

1. The English needs to be improved throughout..


3. I think the above two references should also appear in the second paragraph of the discussion – the choice of comparative countries is limited. Use of these two references would also allow comparisons with the US, European Countries, China. This section needs an expansion to put the results here into context.

4. Page 11. There has been some recent suggestions that vertical transmission may also play a role in the generation of high prevalences of Toxoplasma. The

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests