Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of asymptomatic Plasmodium falciparum parasitemia on the immunohematological indices among school children and adolescents in a rural area highly endemic for Malaria in southern Mozambique

Version: 1 Date: 20 December 2012

Reviewer: Edamisan ET Temiye

Reviewer’s report:

Reviewer’s Comments:
1. Title: The title is appropriate
2. Abstract: It is adequate
3. Introduction: It is detailed enough and acceptable
4. Methods: The study setting is clearly described
   a. Study Sample: Line 3 “volunteerswere” should read “volunteers were”
   b. The methods of obtaining consent from the parents and guardians were not clear. It appears that the subjects were not informed or were inappropriately consented. This should be expatriated upon.
   c. Specimen collection: line 1, I am not certain why as much as 10ml of blood is collected from each individual. That was rather a large sample collection for the laboratory tests carried out. Were samples collected for other analyses, is it ethically right to collect such samples for such tests that requires less than 4ml of blood?
5. Results:
   a. Under Influence of Plasmodium Falciparum in the immune-hematological characteristics of study subjects:
   b. Line 3; p=0.07 in adolescents is not statistically significant.
   c. Line 4 should read “platelet count in parasitized subjects were lower….”
6. Statistical analysis, tables and figures are satisfactory
7. Discussion:
a. The discussion is generally poorly written and lacks depth. There are several grammatical errors and poorly constructed phrases.

b. Paragraph 3, last sentence is incomplete.

c. The opening sentence of paragraph 4 should be reconstructed for clarity; for example it could be written thus: “Apart from the hematological parameters, the impact of APFP on immunological indices has not been previously studied in-depth and published literature in this regard is scarce.”

d. The sentence following this should also be properly constructed.

e. There are too short paragraphs. Paragraph 5 is an example and the claim in (iii) is doubtful as asymptomatic malaria parasitemia is often not treated.

8. Study limitations:
   a. The limitations of this work have not been stated at all.

9. The literature review is adequate.

10. Overall I believe that this work requires major compulsory revisions especially in the discussion of the findings of the authors of this article.

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

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

**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.