Reviewer's report

Title: Seroprevalence of Cytomegalovirus among pregnant women and hospitalized children in Palestine

Version: 1 Date: 2 July 2013

Reviewer: Kamran Yusuf

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A descriptive study of CMV prevalence from a part of the world where data on this is lacking.

Minor revisions
1. The first sentence of the results section needs to be rewritten (Lines 53 and 54)
2. On page 9, line 248, the worda mong is repeated twice.
3. On page 10, lines 280-282, please rewrite the sentence to make the meaning more clear.
4. In all the figures, the y-axis needs to be labelled as percentage.
5. On page 8, second para, third sentence needs to be rewritten (lines 224-226)

Major Revisions
1. The authors did not include 160 tests (8.6%) where the IgG and IgM were not tested simultaneously. How many of these were IgM positive?
2. All the women tested were in the first trimester. Were any women tested later in pregnancy?
3. In the results section, the authors use a lot of percentages. They should try to summarise their results better with less use of percentages.
4. The authors make a statement that on page 9, that congenital CMV infections in Palestine can be attributed to recurrent infection. How do they reach this conclusion as only 40 women were tested with the IgG avidity test?
5. It might be useful to provide some demographic data from Palestine and also some data from the hospital where the study was done i.e. number of deliveries and how many were inborn babies in the study.
6. Do the authors have any data on the hearing test results of the newborns with congenital CMV?

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.