Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for Contracting Watery Diarrhoea in Kadoma City, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe, 2011

Version: 2 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: Giancarlo Ripabelli

Reviewer's report:

The paper describes a case-control study in Nigezi and Rimuka townships (Zimbabwe) about the occurrence of acute watery diarrhea in children aged less than 5 years in the period from 5/9/11 to 1/10/11. The study aimed to identify risk factor to develop diarrhea by using a structure questionnaire administered to caregivers of both cases and controls.

Comments:
Before publishing the manuscript, minor essential revisions are required.
1) Abstract:
- please, check eighty two percent, it should be eighty-two percent;
- please, modify the sentence “a case was a person below 5 years” into “a case was defined as a child aged less than five years old”;
- please, modify the sentence a control was…” into “a control was identified as child aged less than five years”;
- please, delete the word capture;
- please, revise the sentence “the municipal water tested was free of E.coli”, into resulted not contaminated by”;
- please, check the italic form for each cited microorganism;
- keywords should be one word.
2) Background section:
- please, verify the consequential order of the references; there is reference 1 and 3 but between them reference 2 is missing;
- please, format the reference “Census 2000 Estimates” as the other references reported as number;
- please, check the capital format for the cited microorganisms.
3) Methods section:
- please, avoid to repeat into the study in the sentence “children whose caregivers agreed to…’’;
- please, format the reference “CDC, 2011” as the other references were reported as number.
4) Results section:
- please, note that Figure 1 reported in the paper does not describe the geographic distribution of diarrheal cases, which were probably reported in the figure 2; hence, figure 1 is missing;
- please, in the multivariate analysis paragraph mention the table 4 which describe the results; moreover, in the same paragraph, clarify and state for which variable or variables OR was adjusted:
- no results are present for Ngezi township.

5) Discussion section:
- please, better state the first sentence of discussion;
- please, avoid to repeat again the obtained results;
- no discussion is present for Ngezi township.

6) References:
- ref. 13: the year of publication is missing;
- ref. 16: pages are missing.

7) Figure:
- Figure 1 should be the figure 2, because is missing the figure 1 regarding the geographical distribution of the cases.

8) Tables:
- Table 1, table 3: please, check (Col%);
- please, change 1.00 as >0.99 (the same for the other tables);
- please, specify what Q1, Q2 and Q3 are meaning.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'