Reviewer's report

Title: Low prevalence of Leishmania donovani infection among the blood donors in kala-azar endemic areas of Bangladesh

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2012

Reviewer: Murari Prof. Das

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
Please check for spelling and grammar of the paper:

For example:-

1. Spelling

Background Page 6: Phlebotomas Argentipes Should be Phlebotomus argintipes

Page 6: trmsfusion should be transfusion. These simple mistakes may be corrected by computer spell check itself.

2. Grammar:

Page 6: On each working day, up to 10 blood donor volunteers was enrolled to the study after obtaining written informed consent and against study inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Suggestion: On each working day, up to 10 blood donor volunteers were enrolled to the study after obtaining written informed consent and against study inclusion and exclusion criteria.

General comment and suggestions:

3. Background, Page 6: Since VL is clustered at the household and village level, theoretically there is a risk of transmission of VL through blood transfusion if the prevalence of active Leishmania infection is found high among the blood donors.

Suggestion: Define high for your study or remove the word high.

Study site and population


Question: High number of cases are being reported from April onwards reaching the peak in the month of June-July then why you have selected the months from August to April in your study.
5. On each working day, up to 10 blood donor volunteers was enrolled to the study after obtaining written informed consent and against study inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Question: Describe about the donors who came after the 10th donor. You have missed the donors who were poor and arrived late to donate blood.

6. The study inclusion criteria was: aged equal or more than 18 years old...

Question: Whether this was inclusion criteria of the blood bank or yours? If yours, whether children in Bangladesh do not suffer from VL? Explain why you have taken 18 years as cut off?

Results:

7. and only 2.6% of the participants reported having a family member with VL in the past (table 1).

Question: Your three blood donors were positive for leishmania infection by rK39 strip test. Whether or not these three donors were among the above 2.6% participants? Discuss.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'