Reviewer's report

**Title:** Comparison of the burden of diarrhoeal illness among individuals with and without household cisterns in northeast Brazil: a cross-sectional study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 18 May 2012

**Reviewer:** junwen li

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This study determine the 30-day period prevalence of diarrhoea in individuals with and without cisterns and to determine the symptomology, duration of illness and type of health care sought among those with diarrhoea in northeast Brazil. A subgroup analysis was also conducted among children less than five years old. They found that the use of cisterns for drinking water is associated with a decreased occurrence of diarrhoea. The results of this paper are important for compared by other developing countries.

The paper should be accepted for publication.

Besides the additional risk factors for diarrhoea such as presence of a latrine in the home, regular use of soap, point of use disinfectants and practices, and demographic variables that the authors didn’t gave, I believe that habit of drinking water is also important, for example, they habit drinking boiled water or not.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.