Reviewer’s report

Title: Kaposi’s sarcoma associated herpesvirus infection among female sex workers and general women in Shanghai, China: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 26 June 2013

Reviewer: Denise whitby

Reviewer’s report:

The study described by Zhang et al nicely shows that KSHV is not associated with sexual risk factors in Chinese female sex workers and women in the general population. The study is strengthened by the use of serological assays for other sexually transmitted agents which do show evidence of sexual transmission.

Specific comments:
1. The discussion of transmission routes in the introduction is overly simplistic, especially considering that the subject matter of the manuscript concerns KSHV transmission routes.
2. I applaud the authors for the inclusion of power calculations to estimate the number of subjects needed to study the research question adequately and for the detail provided on the recruitment procedures. It is still unclear however, how and where the "general women" were recruited.
3. Although the study population is relatively robust and recruitment procedures are well described, the authors should be more cautious in generalizing their observations to the entire Chinese population
4. The conclusions regarding transmission in MSM are grossly overstated and cannot be substantiated based on reported data.

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.