Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of Human Salmonellosis in Ethiopia: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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Major Compulsory Revisions


This manuscript attempts a meta-analysis of the same papers that are described above. It is not clear how this paper adds to the understanding of salmonellosis in Ethiopia.

2. Pooled prevalence should not be reported as the study populations are not heterogeneous.

3. Search strategy should include ‘typhi’ and ‘typhoid’ as there are papers that may not use Salmonella as a key word if the paper is about typhoid fever.

4. A search of the ‘grey’ unpublished literature should be conducted.

5. There is no clear distinction between typhoid and non-typhoidal salmonellosis in much of the paper and it leads to confusion eg. page 3 refers to case fatality rates of 38% in children. This must surely refer to typhoid fever with bacteraemia and not gastroenteritis. This distinction should be made throughout the paper, where able.

6. The discussion of carriers is not clear. How are carriers defined? Are they typhoid or Salmonella carriers?

7. The discussion of serogroup should provide information on the serotypes these groups include eg. page 13 ‘Higher indexes of invasion were reported for serogroup D and serogroup C’. Not surprising given serogroup D contains S. Typhi and serogroup C contains S Paratyphi C, both know to cause enteric fever.

8. There are only 2 studies that report serotypes conducted almost 30 years apart and as such cannot be used for meta-analysis. The serotype component of the study can be moved to the discussion.

9. The conclusions of this paper are those of the individual studies not of the meta-analysis. As such this is not new information and has already been published in Beyene et. al.

10. The primary aim of the study was to report the prevalence of Salmonella when in fact the paper reports the proportion of positive cultures.
Minor Essential Revisions

1. A paragraph should not begin with ‘figure 1’ etc
2. Percentages should be reported in the text throughout
3. Rates per population should be reported where appropriate
4. The tables should be renamed eg. ‘Frequencies and percentages’ is not needed in the titles

The standard of English and grammar requires improvement throughout the paper. The use of ‘man’ should be replaced with ‘human’ or ‘person’. Slang such as 'urban set-ups' should be removed.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests