Reviewer's report

Title: Ofloxacin Plus Rifampicin Versus Doxycycline Plus Rifampicin In The Treatment Of Brucellosis. A Randomized Clinical Trial

Version: 4 Date: 5 December 2003

Reviewer: Antonio Cascio

Reviewer's report:

General

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. Discussion should be shortened

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Pag 3 cephalosporins and macrolides should be removed from the list of the most commonly used antibiotics in the treatment of brucellosis.
2. Doxycycline is often spelt incorrectly
3. Pag8 quinolones is spelt incorrectly
4. Pag6 line 19 Brucellosis should not be written with a capital b
5. Pag6 line 20 Public health
6. Reference 13 melitensis is spelt incorrectly
7. Reference 14 check the English
8. Table 1 heading: groups (not group); heading of the first column: instead of parameter you should write Clinical findings; heading of second column: you should remove the sentence Finding in the group; in the column of the p values it is better to report only the values <0.1, for all the others NS (not significant) can be use; arthralgia is spelt incorrectly

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. How was randomization conducted? This is a crucial point that must be clarified
2. Primary and secondary outcome measures should be clearly determined
3. How was sample size determined?
4. Was the statistical power computed (beta error)?
5. How many patients had been taking effective antimicrobial therapy within 10 days before starting the study?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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
Declaration of competing interests:

None