Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiology of the human immunodeficiency virus in Saudi Arabia; 18-year surveillance results and prevention from Islamic perspective.

Version: 1 Date: 22 April 2004

Reviewer: Jack DeHovitz

Reviewer’s report:

General

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

Define bisexual contacts

Provide further elaboration of country of origin of expatriates

Article would be strengthened by brief description of injection drug use issues-what is primary drug of use?

Screening of HIV infection needs clearer description. are all prisoners, STD patients patientes with TB, etc and expatriates tested?

4th paragraph in discussion is unnecessary, and does not add additional information or interpretation.

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

Table 2 is unnecessary-text is sufficient. figure 2 is unnecessary, text is sufficient.

Islamicds means of prevention include permit for adolescent marriage, or allowance for up to 4 wives. Is there any data suggesting reduction in STD’s with these allowances?

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Is there any data suggesting strategies to prevent HIV infection in Islamic countries have reduced incidence of HIV, other STDs, or HCV?

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

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: