**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Nosocomial outbreak of neonatal Salmonella enteritidis meningitis in a rural hospital in northern Tanzania

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 July 2004

**Reviewer:** Sam Kariuki

**Reviewer's report:**

**General**
The authors have given a good account of a nosocomial outbreak of NTS meningitis in a neonatal ward, emphasising the importance of bacteriologic investigation of suspect cases before empiric treatment is offered.

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**Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)**
As one of the main criteria for establishment of this outbreak as being nosocomial was pulsed field gel electrophoresis of endonuclease restricted genomic DNA of S. Enteritidis, it would be a good idea to incorporate the gel photo in results.

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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)**

**Abstract**
Methods: May include susceptibility testing and PFGE as tools used to investigate the outbreak.
Results: Write out PFGE in full first, then abbreviate subsequently.

**Background:**
Line 1: Nontyphoidal salmonellae (spelling)

**Methods:**
Line 1: From a total of ...

**Results:**
1. Out of the 24 children with suspected meningitis please clarify what number of children had both blood and CSF taken.
2. Line 4: Use Salmonella enterica serotype Enteritidis, then abbreviate to S. Enteritidis subsequently.
3. Italicise names of bacteria.

**Discussion:**
1. Line 3: Delete "held together with"
2. Line 10: Several factors ... Not clear if authors refer to possible vehicles for NTS transmission or actual/implicated sources of transmission of NTS, eg explain how use of medications and diagnostics could be a source of NTS.
3. Paragraph 2, end of sentence 2: You need a reference on previous reports of MDR NTS.
4. Paragraph 2, Line 9: replace "naturally aggressive course" with "poor prognosis"

**Table.** Only one table is shown so no need to label as Table 1.
Entry on birth weight in row 6 is missing (indicated by a dash -), replace with ND.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None