**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Lack of association between serological evidence of past Coxiella burnetii infection and incident ischaemic heart disease: nested case-control study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 13 May 2005

**Reviewer:** Didier Raoult

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The problem with this paper is that relies on an Elisa kit to test phase II antigen which is not considered reliable. The reference method for C. burnetii serological diagnosis are complement fixation and indirect immunofluorescence. Elisa has been used to detect cases of acute infection when IgM are found but the specificity of IgG anti C. burnetii using this test is not knowner.

In the swisses study the followed cohort ax exposed to a specific outbreak and therefore the exposition was cleary established.