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: 19 April 2005

Reviewer: Tom J Marrie

Reviewer's report:

General
Overall a well done study.

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

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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)
Much more information should be given about the Q fever testing. What strain of Coxiella burnetii was used as the antigen in the ELISA test; what was the cut off for a positive test? Were IgM and IgG antibodies measure; Were antibodies to phase I and phase II C. burnetii antigens measured? Since the tests were done on stored serum do the authors know how well the test performs on serum samples that have been stored for some time?

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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 whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests to declare.