Reviewer's report

Title: Population-Based Laboratory Surveillance for Giardia sp. and Cryptosporidium sp. Infections in a Large Canadian Health Region.

Version: 3 Date: 22 April 2005

Reviewer: Juan A Basualdo

Reviewer's report:

Re-review:

The present study is not an incidence study.
1. This study may be of local interest but by no means can it be considered of international significance.
   The authors mention this is "the first population-based" study: This reviewer wishes to make himself very clear about this: the present study cannot be considered a population-based study.
2. The authors have not modified their description of the sample taking. The stool sample-taking described in the study is incorrect for a parasitologic study. I invite the authors to read the chapter entitled "Algorithms for Detection and Identification of Parasites", in the American Society for Microbiology's "Manual of Clinical Microbiology".
3. Again the authors answer incorrectly, for reasons already expressed in item #1 of this re-review.
4. The concept of demographic factors is a universal concept that cannot be arbitrarily modified. The title of the study does not agree with the objectives mentioned. I invite the authors to re-read the title and the last four lines of the "Background" section.
6. In the "Methods" section the expression: "...all residents who had..." can be read: I wonder how many residents are "...all..."???
   Also, in the case of Giardia, among other details, when describing the population the number of males and females must be mentioned, as well as the age range.
   Therefore, the population is not described correctly.
   The same lack of information is observed in the case of Cryptosporidium.
7. The authors do not address the reviewer's comment.
8. The authors do not address the reviewer's comment.
9. The "n" is unknown. The number of males and females is unknown. I kindly wish to point out that in Figures 2 and 4 the age ranges are not adequate for these parasites, specifically regarding the pediatric population.
   There is a statistic rule called the Sturges rule that allows you to build age ranges from the real data.
14. By enumerating the subsections the Discussion section is divided into the authors are not adequately addressing comment #14 of the review.

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes