Reviewer's report

Title: An outbreak of Streptococcus equi subspecies zooepidemicus associated with consumption of fresh goat cheese

Version: 3 Date: 14 December 2005

Reviewer: Christoph Lämmler

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)

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The present study describes an epidemiological analysis of an outbreak of Streptococcus equi subsp. zooepidemicus infections in humans in Finland. The isolated bacteria were investigated by conventional methods and epidemiologically by two molecular methods also including the gold standard PFGE. According to the results the bacteria from the seven patients, the throat of dairy workers, cheese, raw milk and a single goat represent one bacterial clone revealing a clear epidemiological relationship.

The study appears to be very interesting and should be published without modifications. The results might have worldwide consequences for cheese production and control measure using unpasteurized milk.

Some very minor remarks: median age 70 - page 2, 69 - page 7

Background: ... is a rare infection in humans associated....

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests