Reviewer’s report

Title: Human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) prevalence and quantitative detection of DNA proviral load in individuals with indeterminate/positive serological results.

Version: 2 Date: 4 January 2006

Reviewer: Graham Taylor

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)

Relating to the specificity of the assay. Please state the number of HTLV-I/II seronegative samples tested for HTLV DNA with this assay to enable the reader to determine the level of specificity. See page 9 where the last line states that the assay detects.... with a high level of specificity. If possible add CI intervals.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

It would be of interest to know whether the majority of the subjects tested came from N Africa where HTLV is relatively uncommon or Sub-Saharan Africa and in particular West Africa (as the two positive cases).

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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 declare that I have no competing interests'