Reviewer's report

Title: The correlation of Ureaplasma urealyticum, Ureaplasma parvum, Mycoplasma hominis and Mycoplasma genitalium infections with male infertility

Version: 2 Date: 14 June 2007

Reviewer: Takashi Deguchi

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors reported the prevalence of genital mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas in men attending clinics for semen analysis. They found a significant correlation of M. hominis with low sperm concentrations. However, M. genitalium or U. urealyticum was not associated with semen findings. M. genitalium has been considered a pathogen causing non-gonococcal urethritis in men and mucopurulent cervicitis in women. In addition, some recent studies have suggested that this mycoplasma may be associated with tubal factor infertility in women. Therefore, this study on the association of genital mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas with male infertility is timely and interesting.

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

The manuscript does not include any information of the IRB approval for this study or the informed consents of the participants.

The subjects enrolled in this study should be divided to normal and abnormal categories based on semen variables. And then the prevalence of each mycoplasma or ureaplasma should be compared between the normal and abnormal categories.

The detection of the mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas was not performed in the urethra. Therefore, it would difficult to determine the sites where the mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas infected or colonized. The authors should discuss this point.

It would be useful to include the data of urethral smears or urine examinations.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Were the men, who were positive for mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas, treated with antimicrobial agents? Were their semen findings improved after treatment?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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