Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 27 June 2007

Reviewer: Maciej Kurpisz

Reviewer's report:

General
A paper has some value to the field. There is ongoing discussion concerning the influence of mycoplasmas and ureaplasma on male infertility. This paper addresses this problem

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

There are some points to be answered prior to publication. First, in table 3 we have a bordering statistical significance concerning the influence of Mycoplasma genitalium on sperm concentration. This has to be addressed both in Results as well as in Discussion. Despite of the fact that the sperm count with the presence of Mycoplasma genitalium was within a normal range, a decrease in sperm concentration was significant.

Second - it should be also produced a Table 4 with mixed infections and seminological data - this could be interesting to see whether mixed infections have additive effect on seminology or rather not.

In Discussion an Conclusions - it should be carefully addressed that influence or the lack of influence of mycoplasmas and ureaplasmas on infertility (seminology) may come from ethnic differences, geographical location (population sensitivity to microbial agents) or histocompatibility haplotypes. It is strongly underlined in Conclusions - l. 201 that screening of mycoplasmas/ureaplasmas is not clinically relevant. I would add - in this specific population. As far as European populations are concerned I would rather avoid such a strong recommendations (not to screen).

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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)

In Tables 2 and 3 - it should be stated under - total progressive motility (Category A+B) and rapid progressive motility (Category A according to WHO).

There is some general remarks - there should be used 'frequency' instead of 'prevalence", as well as 'seminological variables' instead of 'andrological variables'
Page 6. line 105 - a sentence with statistically significant data should be crossed-referenced with Table 3; p. 9 l. 143 - it should be PCR instead of RCR

Page 10 - lines 171-176. this is not quite right since there was a correlation with decreased sperm concentration and M. genitalium. So, please, correct this section accordingly what you see in the Tables 2 and 3. P. 10, l. 158 - "Previous studies have described.." - please, restructure this expression, P. 13, l. 229 - grammar!, p. 14, l. 248 - expression 'resaparated' is incorrect, P. 14, l. 252 - grammar!, p. 16, l. 298 - expression 'normality' is incorrect

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No, to all of them. "I declare that I have no competing interests"