Reviewer’s report

Title: Chlamydia and gonorrhoea in pregnant Botswana women: Time to discard the syndromic approach?

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2006

Reviewer: Xiang-Sheng Chen

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)

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1. A clear description on statistical analysis strategies on risk factors (e.g. univariate and multivariate, significance level for identification of the risk factors) is needed.
2. Table 1 shows the results of univariate analysis but what are the results for the multivariate analysis?
3. The performance characteristics (sensitivity, specificity, etc) were evaluated by analyzing the association of the infections with symptoms (or clinical signs), and different risk assessment strategies. What are the results if the evaluation is based on the combinations of symptoms (or clinical signs) and risk assessment? E.g. what is the sensitivity and specificity if the patients who have vaginal discharge AND who are aged less than 30 and unmarried?
4. Regarding the suggestion to reallocate the resources to other STI measures, it may be better to have any evidence from cost-effectiveness analysis or a recommendation to have such an analysis.
5. Alternatively, recommendations on how to improve the current clinical practice of syndromic algorithms at antenatal care could be made using the findings from the study.
6. In the columns “Infected” and “Uninfected” of Table 1, it will be better to use actual numbers rather than percentages (%).

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: Needs some language corrections before being published

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