Reviewer’s report

Title: Seroepidemiology of infection with Toxoplasma gondii and socio-demographic, clinical and behavioural characteristics in blood donors of Durango, Mexico

Version:  1 Date:  2 March 2007
Reviewer:  Roger Dodd

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a nicely performed epidemiological investigation of the prevalence of T. gondii antibodies among blood donors in Durango, Mexico. The observations are somewhat novel inasmuch as this appears to be the first such study from this part of Mexico and that the prevalence rates are much lower than those that have generally been observed in Latin America.

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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)
One possible explanation for the low prevalence rates could be that the test itself has low sensitivity. Are there any independent validations of the test that was used?
Why did the authors not test all samples for IgM antibodies? How long may IgM alone be detected prior to the appearance of IgG?

Minor typographical issues:
"excretes" should be "excreta"
"logic regression" should be "logistic regression"

Reference 8 and reference 28 appear to be the same article.
Table 2: "feaces" should be "feces" (US) or "faeces" (UK)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
A quick review of the NLM gateway site reveals that there are a small number of publications that specifically identify toxoplasma transmission by transfusion (mostly by leukocytes) and, if the authors wish to further reference this point, they may wish to check for these references in addition to numbers 7-10, which mostly deal with transplantation. However, it is acknowledged that transfusion-transmission is not a key component of this particular study.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests