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: 4 March 2007

Reviewer: Eskild Petersen

Reviewer’s report:

General
The study describe questionnaire based risk factors for infection with T.gondii in blood donors with and without T.gondii-specific antibodies. The only significant risk factor in the multivariate analysis was presence of cats in the household.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
It is a major limitation of the study that only 32 persons were seropositive (7.4%) which results in an underpowered study that may overlook significant risk factors. This should be discussed in relation to the risk factors that came out as significant in the bivariate analysis alone. For instance pork meat and turkey meat, is it really risk factors? Would they have come out in the multivariate analysis with a bigger sample size?

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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)
I wonder if the association with education and having an earth floor is a proxy for other factors, and this could be discussed. If has been shown from Brazil, that socio-economic status is strongly related to seropositivity with a low socio-economic status having the highest sero-prevalence. This was found to be due to consumption of untreated surface water. I do not know if this is relevant to Durango City, but at least it should be discussed.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.