Reviewer's report

Title: High prevalence of HSV-2 among rural pregnant women in Tanzania

Version: 3 Date: 23 January 2008

Reviewer: Khalil G. Ghanem

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the authors' attempts to address this reviewer's comments.

A few more MINOR ISSUES:

1. The title as it stands does not make much sense. Why not:

HIV-1, HSV-2 and Syphilis Among Pregnant Women in a Rural Area of Tanzania: Prevalence and Risk Factors

2. In the sample size discussion, why not state:

Based on previous estimates of HIV, HSV, and syphilis prevalence in the area, HIV prevalence was the lowest, so the sample size was based on that estimate. A sample size of 1000 pregnant women would allow us to calculate a 2% prevalence of HIV with 95% confidence intervals of 1 to 3%. Point prevalence estimates of HIV, HSV-2, and syphilis are presented as the point estimate with their 95% confidence intervals.

3. Although sexual transmission of syphilis is usually limited to the early stages, vertical transmission is still possible in latency.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests