Reviewer's report

Title: Cryptic Leishmania infantum infection in Italian HIV infected patients

Version: 4  Date: 27 May 2009

Reviewer: Jean Boyer

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer 1 has several valid points.

The LOD is noted as 0.01 parasite/ml and 100 % validity at 0.1 parasite per ml. But the data only list those subjects at 1 parasite/ml. The paper would therefore be much stronger if a greater number of parasite positive subjects could be included in the analysis.

I also agree with the lack of statistical significance with parasite concentration and CD4 count. Parasite concentration does not appear to be dependent on CD4 numbers based on the multivariate analysis which is most likely the more appropriate statistical analysis.

Although, this is an important area of research I feel if the authors can make these final changes, then the paper can move forward.

The author needs to include the data for subjects with a parasite load of 0.1/ml. The author should eliminate the correlation with the parasitemia and CD4 counts unless the new data provides a p value <0.05 for the multivariate analysis.