Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of praziquantel treatment of Schistosoma mansoni during pregnancy on intensity of infection and antibody responses to schistosome antigens: results of a randomised, placebo-controlled trial.

Version: 2 Date: 21 January 2009

Reviewer: W. Evan Secor

Reviewer's report:

This paper is a straightforward evaluation of the effect of praziquantel on cure of schistosome infections and antibody responses in pregnant women treated either before or after delivery. The findings are not terribly surprising nor are the results likely to greatly alter public health policy but it is solid work with useful information that can contribute to our understanding of schistosomiasis during pregnancy and may have applicability for future studies. BMC Infectious Diseases is a very suitable journal for its publication. Only comments are of the Minor Essential Revisions variety:

1) The first sentence of the results section of the abstract (page 2) does not make much sense. It should be rewritten for better clarity. This section would also be improved if the overall percentages of people in the different infection intensity groups were included here.

2) Is the bar for the praziquantel group 6wksPE SEA IgG4 level (Fig 3B) drawn correctly? The authors state that this value is significantly lower than the placebo group 6wksPE SEA IgG4 level (page 11, lines 14-15) and the praziquantel group enrolment SEA IgG4 level (page 13, lines 20-21) but the levels look quite similar. While it is clearly possible that there is a significant difference, most of the other significant changes in the manuscript are clearly visible. The plot may be correct but it may benefit the authors to check it.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'