Reviewer’s report

Title: Seroprevalence of IgG antibodies to pertussis toxin among medical students in the west of Iran

Version: 1 Date: 7 January 2009

Reviewer: Birger Trollfors

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Pertussis toxin IgG antibodies have been measured by a commercial kit in 163 medical students. Most likely medical students are highly selected, not representing young adults in the area studied.

There is virtually no background information about the whole cell pertussis vaccine used in Iran. Who produced it, what potency assays were used, did it pass the mouse protection test, how many bacterial units did it contain per given dose?

How were vaccinations in childhood including boosters verified, written records or parental recall?

How is the current epidemiology of pertussis in this part of Iran? Can these youngsters have been exposed to the causative organism?

On what basis was the limit of 24 units/ml chosen?

Is the method (kit) standardised by international reference sera? Does the kit include positive and negative controls?

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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