Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics and risk factors for symptomatic Giardia lamblia infections in Germany

Version: 2 Date: 27 October 2009

Reviewer: Ryan Lennon

Reviewer's report:

General

The manuscript is much improved and I commend the authors for their diligent response. I have only a handful of comments on the new manuscript.

Major Compulsive

1) Page 11
"This showed that women are more likely to do gardening than men and are also better protected by this. Both sexes are unlikely to eat green salad daily, but men eating salad are at higher risk (Table 4)."

The results in Table 4 do not show that women are more protected by gardening, or that men are at higher risk from eating salad daily. There are trends, perhaps, but not significant results presented to support that statement. You cannot compare p-values to say that one group is at higher risk than another - such a statement requires a formal test of interaction. You can see by looking at the 95% confidence intervals, that it is certainly possible that men benefit from gardening more than women, and that women might be at a higher risk from eating salad than men.

Minor Essential

2) Page 8
"insignificant variables, We excluded" - should have a period instead of a comma

3) Page 9
"(p<0.000)" should be "(p<0.001)"
Discretionary
4) Page 10
"and to own pets (35%) compared to controls." - recommend changing to
"and to own pets (35%) compared to travel-associated cases."

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.