Reviewer’s report

Title: Estimation of the hospital-based HIV seroprevalence as a nationwide scale using a novel method: 2002-2008 in Korea

Version: 3 Date: 9 September 2010

Reviewer: Bernardo Galvao-Castro

Reviewer’s report:

Please find below my comments.
Having reviewed the new format of the manuscript I would recommend to the authors:
1) to insert the following phrase page 6, line 15, before the reference number (18): In short, the algorithm used for HIV laboratory diagnosis in South Korea comprises a screening test (ELISA, passive agglutination test and rapid test) and a confirmatory test (Western blot and PCR).
2) to insert the following phrase in the discussion, page 12, line 14: We are aware that there could be some bias in the prevalence estimated in the present study Indeed, previous studies have identified potential biases in assessing the general population HIV prevalence from samples of selected groups such as prenatal clinic users, blood donors and hospital-based studies. (Dourado I e tal.. HIV-1 seroprevalence in the General Population of Salvador, Bahia State, Northeast Brazil.. Cadernos de Saúde Pública (FIOCRUZ), v. 23, p. 25-32, 2007; Changalucha J et al. Comparison of HIV prevalences in community-based and antenatal clinic survey in rural Mwanza, Tanzania. AIDS 2002;16:661-5).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

‘I declare that I have no competing interests’