Reviewer’s report

Title: The Second Study of Infectious Intestinal Disease (IID2): Increased rates of recurrent diarrhoea in individuals aged 65 years and above

Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2013

Reviewer: Mohammad Khan

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Introduction, para one second sentence, please introduce IID2 study to the reader.

For the sake of diversity in readership, please provide a clinical and/or laboratory definition of IID.

The reference from Australia is from a single analysis using data from two surveys to calculate incidence, since incidence cannot be estimated from one survey. At least I thought that results from two different surveys. It will be useful to phrase the sentence in a way where the reader does understand the information.

The sentence “In England and Wales, persons over 65 account for 15% of laboratory-confirmed campylobacteriosis cases ……” in the first para of introduction is confusing.

The background is still very weak. Does not describe the health problem in question very well, does not provide a rationale for this analysis and the public health significance of the results for elderly population. Other studies, at least the one from Australia showed that older population is at a lower risk compare to those younger than 64 years. Therefore a study that will look at the risk factors for the older population, where the authors themselves are excluding the high risk old homes, I wonder how the results may guide intervention programs in UK.

What percentage of total sample was excluded for various reasons, such as non-availability of an interpreter?

Discussion:

First sentence: The authors hypothesis was the effect of previous episode on recurrence of IID by age. The statement needs revision, as age is not a modifiable risk factor, in case we find association of age with recurrence, there cannot be an intervention to prevent recurrence. Whereas by reducing the first episode of IID in elderly population, one could reduce a follow up episode of IID.

Did the authors look for type of organism?

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

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 interest.