Reviewer’s report

Title: Interventions for preventing diarrhea-associated hemolytic uremic syndrome: systematic review

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Reviewer: Alexander W. Friedrich

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written manuscript on the public health importance of EHEC bacteria including publications from countries reflecting very well the clinical and public health importance of certain EHEC infections, but only unfortunately a part of the STEC/EHEC/HUSEC problem. For publication the following advices should be followed:

Method of systematic review:

It is not clear to me what search terms were really used: EHEC/E. coli infection and/or HUS only? Most publications included describe infections due to O157:H7. There is a description of the O111 outbreak in Australia and the O104 outbreak in Germany. This is now of utmost importance: There are many more HUS/outbreaks described that are caused by other serotypes than O157:H7. Next to the non-O157 related outbreaks, you need to include also the publication of severe infections and outbreaks caused by O157:HNM, which is described to have hypervirulent activity in comparison to other subclonal lineages.

Therefore, you need to include the search terms STEC, VTEC and HUSEC and all different serogroups/-types in your systematic review otherwise you miss all data from countries with publications with the aforementioned terms.

The same counts for HUS. HUS is a – very important- disease, but STEC/EHEC cause also hemorrhagic colitis and (bloody diarrhea). Why did you exclude them? They have surely public health importance and are caused by EHEC/STEC that that can cause HUS. Focusing only on HUS does not reflect the real prevalence of the HUS causing agent.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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