Reviewer’s report

Title: Seroprevalence and Risk Factors for Toxoplasma Infection in Pregnancy, Aydin Province, Turkey

Version: 1 Date: 30 March 2005

Reviewer: Chia-Kwung Fan

Reviewer’s report:

General
This paper describes the seroprevalence of Toxoplasma infection among pregnant women in Aydin Province, Turkey. Additionally, they also assessed risk factors related to T. gondii infection. In general, this paper indicated that drinking water contaminated with oocysts may be one of the important sources of T. gondii infection for pregnant women, which the finding is interesting. This finding can provide a strategy in preventing for Toxoplasma infection for them. However, some issues should be addressed before it can be published in the Journal. These issues are listed in the following paragraph.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Title revised to: Seroprevalence and Risk Factors for Toxoplasma Infection among Pregnant Women in Aydin Province, Turkey” is suggested.
2. M& M:
   Serological methods
   a. Elisa—
   b. IFA-----
   c. DA----
   d. Avidity test---
   follows by “The Toxoplasma specific IgG--------“.
3. Discussion of 5 pages is too long. It should be extensively rewritten and re-organized. 3 pages are sufficient to address the important findings.
   For example: “At one of the two given studies, Jones et al explains the reason of the decreasing by improving hygiene conditions and education status [11]. “ can be revised into shorter paragraphs “At one of the two given studies, Jones et al (2001) explains that the decreasing seroprevalence vs age was due to improving hygiene conditions and education status [11].“
4. Sera collection as authors indicated:
   1st trimester---389 samples
   2nd trimester---257 samples
   3 rd trimester---124 samples
   So, totally 770 sera samples are enrolled in this study. In fact, only 389 samples (1st trimester) were undertaken to test IgG and IgM Abs? If you have tested another trimester sera, what’s the sera conversion? It may provide good evidence to support your questionnaire data—drinking water may be an important source of infection.
5. Percentage in the quota should be re-calculated. For example: Ten border results (1.30%)-- should be revised into (2.6%), because 10 is divided by 389 not 770.
6. All authors et al should be followed by year. For example: Jones et al (2001).
7. Map should be in black and white.
8. 40 references should be shortened into about 30 references.

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests