Reviewer's report

Title: Levels of diphtheria and tetanus specific IgG of Portuguese adult women, before and after vaccination with adult type Td. Duration of immunity following vaccination.

Version: 2 Date: 16 February 2007
Reviewer: Jeanne-Marie Jacquet

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an interesting manuscript. The analysis conducted is of bearing on dT booster recommendations, although the study population was limited and more particularly the two groups defined during the analysis according to vaccination history were of different sizes (22 versus 66 subjects).

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

Considering that reactions to vaccination were not actively solicited nor measured, and that only mild reactions were infrequently spontaneously reported, the conclusion to a potential impact of anti-tetanus antibody concentrations is very weak (page 19).
Also it is stated page 12 that “only women from Group A were vaccinated with diphtheria”. Consequently a link with diphtheria may not be made, simply because most women have not received D. This discussion would need to take into account information on:
- number of doses of T and of D received by women who reported reactions as compared to women who did not
- pre-existing and post-booster ATT and ADT concentrations in the women who reported reactions as compared to women who did not.
In view of the weakness of the evidence in this study as to an impact of the sole T antibody levels on reactogenicity, I advise to remove this point.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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: 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