Reviewer’s report

Title: Health-seeking behaviour of human brucellosis cases in rural Tanzania

Version: 4 Date: 12 September 2007

Reviewer: Pablo C Baldi

Reviewer’s report:

General

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

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

In response to my suggestion to discuss the false negative results of screening tests, the authors have now introduced the following paragraph: "The delay to present to hospitals could have caused brucellosis to turn into a chronic form that could not be detected by the agglutinations tests performed at the hospitals. Agglutination tests depend very much on the presence of IgM immunoglobulin that could be low or absent in chronic state (Mittal and Tizard, 1983)." This statement is incorrect. While it is true that chronic forms of brucellosis go undetected occasionally by agglutination tests, the reason seems to be the development of non-agglutinating antibodies rather than the absence of IgM. This is revealed by the finding of high titers by the Coombs test in chronic cases. Authors should delete the last sentence (Agglutination tests depend....).

In the supplemental material, Table 1 is labeled as Table 5. Please correct the heading of the Table.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

In the description of the assessment performed by the local practitioner (Materials and Methods) authors may include other items besides clinical history and location (e.g., level of education, economic status, etc.).

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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.