Reviewer's report

Title: Parasitological impact of two-year preventive chemotherapy on schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis in Uganda

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2007

Reviewer: Jorg Heukelbach

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors describe the impact of a treatment program against schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis in Uganda. The excellent study is well designed, and the manuscript is clearly written. However, there are some issues that need to be addressed.

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

- Results: much of the data is presented in tables and again in the text. Considering the amount of data, it would be worthwhile to reduce redundancy of presentation of data.
- In contrast to hookworm infection and schistosomiasis, prevalence and intensity of infection of trichuriasis and ascariasis are not presented in detail (stratified by area, sex etc). I assume that this has been done because there were no differences? Please state that in the text. Are there any areas where prevalences e.g. of ascariasis where higher, as stated in the introduction?
- There are clearly too many tables and figures. Table 2 should be omitted, as the absolute values are presented in Table 1, and data of Table 2 can be deducted from this table. Similarly, Table 5 is not necessary and should be deleted. Figure 3 presents similar data as presented in Table 7.
- Discussion: similarly, in the discussion, results are repeated in detail. This is not necessary.
- It is important to state in which areas of Uganda ivermectin mass treatment has been done in the past. Ivermectin has an excellent efficacy e.g. against ascariasis, which may explain the low prevalence of this STH in some areas.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Which journal?: Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

What next?: Accept for publication in BMC Medicine after minor essential revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No