Reviewer's report

Title: Increased microbiological burden in illegal medicines

Version: 1 Date: 11 October 2013

Reviewer: Eric Deconinck

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:
1) discussion third paragraph. In the beginning of the paragraph a generalisation is made towards all counterfeit medicines. Although I can agree that the supposition is correct. It is not proven and therefore it is better to rewrite the sentence as: "it can be supposed..."

Discretionary revisions
1) I think a remark should be made about a special group of "unapproved medicines". Some medicines are legal in the country of origin, since these countries do not recognise US and European patent laws. Example of this is (the genuine) Kamagra. Often these products respond to high quality norms.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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