Reviewer's report

Title: BOVINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS DISCOVERED IN HUMAN BLOOD

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2018

Reviewer: James Lawson

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellent and important study. The concepts and methods are of high quality. The background outlined in the manuscript is excellent. The authors are obviously very well informed about the underlying science.

My only suggestion is for the authors to expand the discussion to include 2 issues. (i) that there is a correlation between red meat eating populations and high prevalence of breast cancer (which is compatible with consumption of meat infected by BLV) and (ii) identification of BLV in blood components may or may not indicate a transmission route (but is a strong possibility - exosomes in the blood may also be a possible transmission route).

This study adds to the evidence that BLV infections in cattle are a likely risk to humans. Perhaps the authors should boldly state this.

Given the high quality of this manuscript it is pedantic to suggest some improvements in the wording of several sentences. However the following may be helpful:

Line 26 - add the word "current" to research - "The purpose of this current research was to determine if BLV is present in human blood"

Line 28 - add "96 self selected male and female human subjects."

Line 33 - under Conclusion add "... lead to leukemia and other cancers."

Line 51 - add "In cattle, BLV is found..."

Line 55 - add "... human females from Columbia, Australia and Argentina ..."

Line 120 expand acronym UCB to University of California at Berkeley.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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I declare that I have no competing financial interests. However I have previously been a co-author with Gertrude Buehring. This has not influenced my review.

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