Reviewer’s report

Title: SERO-PREVALENCE OF TOXOPLASMA GONDII AND ASSOCIATED RISK FACTORS AMONG PSYCHIATRIC OUTPATIENTS ATTENDING UNIVERSITY OF GONDAR HOSPITAL, NORTHWEST ETHIOPIA

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Mun-Yik Fong

Reviewer's report:

The authors carried out a study to determine the seroprevalence of toxoplasmosisi and associated risk factors among psychiatric outpatients at the University of Gondar Comprehensive and Specialized Hospital Psychiatric Clinic. Although the findings of the study are interesting, there is a major issue which needs to be addressed first. The presentation of the article is poor. Numerous grammatical and typographical errors, and incorrect sentence structures are sighted in the manuscript. Also, redundant statements and disjointed texts are found in several parts of the manuscript.

Examples:

(i) Redundancy: Page 3, lines 50-55: An institution based cross-sectional study was conducted among psychiatric outpatients at University of Gondar University of Gondar Comprehensive and Specialized Hospital, psychiatric out patient's clinic, Gondar, Northwest Ethiopia. (The first ‘out patients’ should be replaced with ‘patients’, and the second ‘out patient’ should be ‘Outpatient’)

(ii) Redundancy: Page 4, line 32: During data collection psychiatric nurses were recruited for data collection ... (Should be written as: Psychiatric nurses were recruited for data collection ...)

(iii) What is the relevance of Human immune deficiency virus testing in the study? (Page 5, lines 35-42). Furthermore, there is no mention of HIV testing results in the Results or Discussion sections.

(iv) What is VCT? (Page 5, line 1)

(v) Urine HCG test (Page 5, lines 27-31) is poorly described.
(vi) Improper words usage, examples: [Page 6, line 7: Data was coded, entered, and cleaned - what is 'cleaned'?; Page 6, line 28: A permission letter was also taken - 'taken' is not the correct word; Page 8, line 47: ... so we are forced to say.... - 'forced' is not correct]

(vii) The Discussion section is poorly written. The authors mainly cited findings from other African countries, without providing deeper argument or explanation for their findings.

(viii) In the Background section, the paragraphs describing symptoms or clinical manifestations of toxoplasmosis (paragraphs 2, 3, 7 and 8) should be continuous and not separated.

(ix) Page 9, lines 42-47: 'One possible reason for the high variation rate in the sero-prevalence of anti-T. gondii IgM seen in the control group may be living residential areas which expose people to infections. (This sentence is unclear).

Therefore, in my opinion, the article has yet to attain the required standard for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases. I recommend that this manuscript be improved and re-written before re-submission.

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?
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Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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