Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of micro capillary-culture method for the isolation of Leishmania aethiopica parasites from patients with cutaneous lesions in Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 05 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Emily Adams

Reviewer’s report:

The use of culture for diagnosis of CL is limited due to the number of places which are able to culture parasites with acceptable safety standards. However, this paper does show a different method that should speed up to time to diagnosis. However, this will be of limited value as most CL patients are diagnosed either clinically or microscopically.

My major concern with this paper is the use of the MCM method as part of the composite reference standard. You can not use the index test - MCM - as part of the reference test as this is a huge bias. So in order to accept this article the calculation of diagnostic accuracy (sensitivity and specificity) must be completely re-done.

The composite reference standard must be microscopy and TCM alone. The MCM should be calculated against this.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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