OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://sites.kowsarpub.com/kowsar/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

International Journal of Infection
Article DOI: 10.5812/iji.110598
Published in: International Journal of Infection: 8(2); e110598

Peer Review Report for "Toxoplasmosis in Pregnant Women and Non-pregnant Female Volunteers in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria"

Author(s): Evelyn O Onosakponome, Austin E Abah, Michael Wogu

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 7 Nov 2020
Revised Date: 3 Jan 2021
Accepted Date: 1 Feb 2021

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 8 Nov 2020

Dear AE,
Comments for the authors:
1- The study framework is appropriate
2- Due to the cross-reaction in the tests in the antibody and antigen and the non-confirmation of the results by real-time PCR, it was necessary to confirm the results with the Gold standard of the Toxoplasma diagnosis method.
3- On the other hand, In terms of public health, infection with toxoplasma prior to pregnancy or having, a specific IgG is a feature that is less discussed in the text.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 21 Nov 2020

Dear AE,
Thanks to the authors
Comments for the Author:
The subject of this manuscript is interesting and its results are essential.
Introduction:

- Materials and Method

- In line 66, the word milliliter should be used instead of millimeter
- In real time, the sequence of primer and probe nucleotides should be specified or its source should be indicated.

- Results :

- There are no photographs or graphs of the results of the molecular method . Please insert a graph or photo in the results

- Discussion:

- It is necessary to state the important result obtained in the first sentence of the discussion.
- There is no mention in the discussion of why the molecular test was negative in all cases where IgM was positive.

- REFERENCES

This article should also be referenced in this manuscript
Diagnosis of acute toxoplasmosis by IgG avidity method in pregnant women referred to health centers in south-eastern Iran, , J Parasit Dis (July-Sept 2019) 43(3):517–521
Thanks.

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 25 Nov 2020

Dear EIC
The reviewer(s) have recommended publication, but also suggest some minor revisions to the manuscript. Therefore, I invite the author to respond to the reviewer(s)' comments and revise his manuscript.
Kind regards,

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh: EIC | **Revision** (0) 25 Nov 2020

Dear Author,
Your article is reviewed by the reviewers carefully. According to their comments, this document needs minor revision. Please follow their comments as requested.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Answer to Reviewer's comment 2020 (Tox)

EIC Decision:

Comments for the Author:
Thanks to the authors
The subject of this manuscript is interesting and its results are essential.
The following should be explained by the authors.
Introduction:
Materials and Method
In line 66, the word milliliter should be used instead of millimetre (corrected)
In real time, the sequence of primer and probe nucleotides should be specified or its source should be indicated. Commercial primers kit by liferiver Biotech

Dear Authors
1- The study framework is appropriate (Thank you for your kind comments)
2- Due to the cross-reaction in the tests in the antibody and antigen and the non-confirmation of the results by real-time PCR, it was necessary to confirm the results with the Gold standard of Toxoplasma diagnosis method. Elisa method is the gold standard for toxoplasmosis diagnosis.
3- On the other hand, In terms of public health, infection with toxoplasma prior to pregnancy or having, a specific IgG are a feature that is less discussed in the text.

Results :
There are no photographs or graphs of the results of the molecular method . Please insert a graph or photo in the results Included in result as plate 1

Discussion:
It is necessary to state the important result obtained in the first sentence of the discussion. Restructured to address the concern.

There is no mention in the discussion of why the molecular test was negative in all cases where IgM was positive.. Reasons are stated under discussion.
REFERENCES
This article should also be referenced in this manuscript *Included reference no. 11*
Diagnosis of acute toxoplasmosis by IgG avidity method in pregnant women referred to health centers in south-eastern Iran, , J Parasit Dis (July-Sept 2019) 43(3):517–521

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 20 Dec 2020

Dear AE,
The answers are not convincing.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 23 Dec 2020

Dear AE,
Due to the requested changes, in my opinion, this manuscript is acceptable and printable.
Thanks.

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) — 25 Dec 2020

Dear EIC,
The answers are not convincing.
Thanks.

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh: EIC | **Revision** (1) — 25 Dec 2020

Dear Author,
Your article is reviewed by the reviewers carefully. According to their comments, this document needs minor revision. Please follow their comments as requested.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Answer to Reviewer's comment 2020 (Tox)

Q. In line 66, the word milliliter should be used instead of millimetre

Ans: millimetre (corrected)

Q. In real time, the sequence of primer and probe nucleotides should be specified or its source should be indicated

Ans: Commercial primers kit by liferiver Biotech

Q1. The study framework is appropriate

Ans: Thank you for your kind comments

Q2- Due to the cross-reaction in the tests in the antibody and antigen and the non-confirmation of the results by real-time PCR, it was necessary to confirm the results with the Gold standard of Toxoplasma diagnosis method.

Ans 2 : Elisa method is appropriate for this study because it is definite and highly sensitive. More so, this is a comparative analysis of the diagnostic ability of ELISA and real-time PCR of the selected group and for ethical and health reasons. The Dye method referred to as the gold standard for toxoplasmosis diagnosis involves the use of live toxoplasma tachyzoites which is hazardous and highly technical, and beyond the use for large field sampling as this.

Q3- On the other hand, In terms of public health, infection with toxoplasma prior to pregnancy or having, a specific IgG are a feature that is less discussed in the text.

Ans: The study design actually had the pregnant women as the major focus with the non-pregnant ones just as a control. Infection with toxoplasma prior to pregnancy or having a specific IgG will be adequately handled in subsequent / future work.

Conclusion: We are grateful to the reviewers for their positive and highly constructive review.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (2) 21 Jan 2021

Dear AE,
The study is reviewed carefully. According to comments and revisions by the author, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh: Associate Editor | **Revision** (2) 1 Feb 2021

Dear EIC,
Due to the requested changes, in my opinion, this manuscript is acceptable and printable.
Thanks.

Hamidreza Kouhpayeh: EIC | **Revision** (2) 1 Feb 2021

Dear Author,
Due to the requested changes, in my opinion, this manuscript is acceptable and printable.
Thanks.