



**SDI Review Form 1.6**

**PART 1:**

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| Journal Name:            | <a href="#">International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE &amp; Health</a>                                                                  |
| Manuscript Number:       | MS: 2013_ IJTDH _3136                                                                                                                   |
| Title of the Manuscript: | Prevalence of Antibody to <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> in women Delivering Infants at Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, Texas, USA |

**General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:**

**(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)**

- This form has total 9 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



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### **PART 2: Review Comments**

|                                            | <b>Reviewer's comment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Author's comment</b> (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b><u>Compulsory</u></b> REVISION comments | <p>Abstract:</p> <p>Line 17: An introduction sentence explaining the rational and the objective would be welcome.</p> <p>Line 23: It would be more accurate to state that the study shows a risk of T.cruzi transmission among pregnant women attending this health facility rather than generalizing to all non-endemic countries.</p> <p>Article:</p> <p>Line 33: Provide the rate of T.cruzi transmission from pregnant infected mothers to their offspring to reinforce the rational.</p> <p>Line 46: Did the investigators discriminated between recently arrived (thus potentially more exposed to T. cruzi infection) and US-born women with Hispanic names? Please provide more information on criteria of eligibility.</p> <p>Line 48: If I understand well, specimen were made anonymous and sociodemographic data not collected, therefore making it impossible to determine groups more at risk. That is the major limitation of that study. If available, provide information about sociodemographic characteristics of the 200 participants (age, country of origin at least).</p> <p>Lines 72-79: These are background information to add to the first section of the article.</p> <p>As the main study result is the evidence of the potential for congenital T. cruzi transmission in Dallas, a more thorough discussion about previous similar studies in the</p> | <p><b>Line 17:</b><br/>Recent immigration patterns to our community, particularly with respect to persons coming from Latin American countries, suggest the possibility of latent infection with <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> in at least a proportion of immigrants. This in turn suggests at least the possibility of congenital transmission.</p> <p><b>Line 23:</b><br/>We would agree that the risk for transplacental transmission of <i>T. cruzi</i> refers to women attending the Parkland Health and Hospital System, but it also is applicable in theory to other areas outside the endemic zones, such as other parts of North America, and Europe.</p> <p><b>Line 33:</b><br/>We do not know the rate of transmission of <i>T. cruzi</i> from pregnant infected mothers to their offspring in our community. That has never been studied. It can be inferred only from data collected in endemic countries, which may or may not be relevant to immigrants in Dallas, Texas.</p> <p><b>Line 46:</b><br/>Our extensive experience with the Hispanic population attending PHHS is that the vast majority are foreign-born, and that they</p> |



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|  | <p>US and possibly in Europe would shed more light on the importance of such result. Moreover, briefly discussing the possible strategies to implement (targeted versus universal screening) would add strength to the manuscript.</p> <p>Please check again the references about evidences of vertical transmission in the US: some refer to vertical transmission in Europe or Latin America only.</p> | <p>frequently return to visit their place of origin. The administration of PHHS does not ask patients about their country/city/state of origin. Our experience tells us that when we (individual practitioners) ask about country or locality of origin, the ones from Mexico are mostly not from northern Mexico, but from such areas as the states of Guanajuato, Queretéro, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Michoacán, Aguascalientes and San Luis Potosí. As stated in the next response point, we did not have specific eligibility criteria other than those stated in the manuscript (Hispanic surnamed women delivering infants at PHHS).</p> <p><b>Line 48:</b><br/>The reviewer is correct. Specimens were made anonymous immediately upon collection. A stipulation of our Institutional Review Board approval was that this should be an anonymous, thus, deidentified population study. The women were quite obviously of childbearing age. As stated above, the Hispanic population in our facility is largely from the states in Mexico mentioned in the prior paragraph, as well as from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and a smaller percentage from northern countries of South America.</p> <p><b>Lines 72-79:</b><br/>These will be transferred to the introductory segment, if the reviewer prefers it to be there. Discussion will be amended to include other studies. The reviewer objects to our references to similar events in Europe. There</p> |
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|                                         |                                                                                                                                                       | <p>are very few studies of similar populations in the US. Our references are pertaining to potential transplacental transmission in <b><u>nonendemic</u></b> areas, be they in North America or Europe, or even in paucidendemic areas of Mexico.</p> <p><b>Line 33: (Minor)</b><br/>The references will be listed in order of their appearance in the manuscript.</p> |
| <b><u>Minor</u></b> REVISION comments   | Line 33: I suggest numerating the references by order of appearance.                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b><u>Optional/General</u></b> comments | This interesting study needs to be presented with more accurate information and the discussion better developed to receive the attention it deserves. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |