# Review of: "Clinical and Subclinical Bovine Mastitis: Staphylococcus aureus Isolation and Identification from Dairy Farms Located in and Around Hawassa Town, Southern Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

General comments: The article is fairly well-written, and the work is very relevant considering the complexity of mastitis; however, there is no numbering of sections and sub-sections, as well as a few grammatical errors. Here are a few suggestions for improvement:

Title: There is a need to include the aspect of risk factor analysis in the title

Abstract: There is a need to clearly but briefly explain in the methods section of the abstract the bacteriology methods used for isolation and identification

Introduction: Livestock population figures for Ethiopia need a more recent reference such as FAOSTAT; the definition for subclinical mastitis needs a more recent reference, the Blood and Radostits citation seems old; the public health aspects of S.aureus need a more thorough review; the gap and the problem statement need to be made clearer—it cannot be just to update information on prevalence.

Materials and methods:

Clearly explain the justification for increasing the sample size from what has been calculated; the specific sampling technique needs to be explained briefly, i.e., random or purposive?; The section on udder cleaning should be combined with the previous section on milk sample collection; this section needs reorganization so that data collection methods and laboratory methods are separate; there is a need to have a section titled "data collection" where the collection of milk samples and the collection of risk factor data are explained, and then isolation and identification using culture and biochemical tests can be explained under a section titled "laboratory methods."

Results:

Under the section on risk factor analysis, it is stated that the odds are 1.88 greater for mastitis in exotic breeds with a p-value of 0.064? This might not be significant; please check this; specify the reference group for age as well as all other variables

Check to ensure all references cited in the body are included in the reference section and vice versa

Recommendation: Accept for publication after the minor issues raised are addressed