Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical Significance of Hypoalbuminemia in Outcome of Patients with Scrub Typhus

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Reviewer: Gustavo Valbuena

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript submitted by Chang-Seop Lee and collaborators concerning the “Clinical Significance of Hypoalbuminemia in Outcome of Patients with Scrub Typhus” is generally well written and interesting. The following are my suggestions for improving the manuscript:

• Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors conclude the following: “This study, using hypoalbuminemia as a criterion, was done in search of more effective measures for improving patient care in scrub typhus, which would ultimately curve the unnecessary use of medical resources”. However, no alternative measures, besides effective antibiotic treatment, are suggested in order to decrease the morbidity associated with cases of scrub typhus with hypoalbuminemia. The importance of the confirmation of hypoalbuminemia as an important marker for severe forms of scrub typhus can only be substantiated in the context of potential therapeutic interventions that may benefit these patients. Please discuss.

• Minor Essential Revisions

o Results section, first line of first paragraph: please remove “the” from “we adjusted the all variables…”

o Results section, third paragraph: please replace “was” with “is” in “A summary of initial laboratory findings for groups I and II was shown in Table 3”.

o Same paragraph as above: insert “different” between “significantly between” in “The ST (p=0.406) and AT (p=0.487) interval was not significantly between the two groups”.

o Discussion section, last sentence of first paragraph: remove both articles “the” from “…an increased vascular permeability with the extravascular protein loss, and consequently the hypoalbuminemia”.

o Discussion section, third paragraph: remove “the” from “Song et al#8#showed that the interstitial pneumonia, pleural….

o Discussion section, third paragraph: remove “the” from “However, in contrary to the previous report#8#, the pneumonia was more frequent…”

o Discussion section, fourth paragraph: suggest the following change for “Some literatures showed that…”: previous reports showed that…
Discussion section, fifth paragraph: please modify “Renal complications may prolong its morbidity and even to death” to read Renal complications may prolong its morbidity and even lead to death.

Discussion section, fifth paragraph: remove “the” from “In this study, the renal failure was more frequently reported in the group with hypoalbuminemia…”

Discussion section, fifth paragraph: remove “the” from “We suggest that the hypoalbuminemia has close association…”

Discussion section, sixth paragraph: please correct the acronym APACHE II.

Discussion section, last paragraph: please change “rose” for “rising” in “…steadily with its reported cases sharply rose to 6057 in 2008#28#, the…”

Title for table 5: please remove article “the” at the beginning of the title.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests