Reviewer's report

Title: Characterization of early host responses in adults with dengue disease

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Reviewer: Beatriz Sierra

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Overall comment:
The paper by Tolfvenstam et al characterizes the early host responses in adults with dengue disease, and reports a strong activation of the innate immune response in the early dengue fever phase, an activation of genes related to biosynthesis and metabolism as well as adaptive immune response genes at defervescence. They also report an individual gene level, significant predominance of CCL2, CCL8, CXCL10, CCL3, antimicrobial peptide #-defensin ,desmosome/intermediate junction component plakoglobin and a microRNA. The authors deserve credit for addressing a highly relevant and clinically important disease.. The title and abstract express what has been found and the writing is suitable.

The questions posed by the authors are well defined. The methods are advanced, appropriate and well described. The data are truly sound, since this referee agrees with the authors that assessment of dengue-elicited early host responses is difficult as patients rarely seek healthcare during the first days of infection, and this response is critical for the disease outcome. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported.

This reviewer considers the authors have answered the indicated points sufficiently well to allow their manuscript to be published. The manuscript has been enhanced over previous submission and the overall quality of the paper has been improved. For this reviewer this manuscript reaches now the quality for publication in the BMC Infectious Diseases

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests