Reviewer's report

Title: Serum IL-10 as a marker of severe dengue infection

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2013

Reviewer: Trai-Ming Yeh

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To determine which cytokine can be a biomarker of severe dengue (SD) infection, the authors determine the serum IL-10, IFN#, IFN# and MIF levels in 259 dengue patients. Among them, 40 had SD infection. They concluded that although serum IL-10 was significantly elevated in patients with SD it had a poor discriminatory value in identifying those with SD and non SD and therefore, is unsuitable to be used as a biomarker in dengue infection.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Please provide the raw data to explain why the serum levels of IL-10 (mean±SD) is 291.6±573.8 and ALT is 474.6 ±893.2 in severe dengue (Table, p.20-21)?
2. It looks like there are major statistical mistakes in the data presented in this paper. Since statistical comparison is the main point of this paper, I suggest the manuscript needs to be seen by a statistician.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.