Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 16 May 2013

Reviewer: David Chien Lye

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Major compulsory reviews:

The authors did not seem to have tracked changes or indicated by line number where they have made the revision.

On my major compulsory revision, I could not see that they have discussed the late presentation of their patients in relation to their findings of non-discrimination by IL-10 compared with other cohorts. This requires a review of published clinical studies that have compared IL-10 between DHF and non-DHF or SD and non-SD, and note the time of sampling as well as other pertinent information such as median age.

Likewise on which laboratory tests were done and not done daily, they did not specify. I suggest they re-vise as (based on my understanding of their reply):
"Full blood count was done daily (and more often if clinically indicated), while electrolyte and renal panel, liver function, coagulation profile, chest X-ray and ultrasound scan of the abdomen were performed in selected patients based on clinical indications as a result of resource limitation". In their discussion, they should add: "The lack of systematic laboratory and radiological investigations may have limited the accuracy of dengue severity classification".

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.