Reviewer's report

Title: Rapid detection of dengue viruses from clinical samples using the single-tube reverse transcription-loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay

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Reviewer: Imadeldin Aradaib

Reviewer's report:

Editor-in-Chief,
BMC Infectious Diseases
Re: Manuscript number: PNTD-D-13-00313

I have had the opportunity to review the manuscript titled “Rapid detection of Dengue viruses from clinical samples using reverse transcription-loop-mediated isothermal amplification” submitted by Teoh et al., for consideration for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

The manuscript describes Rapid detection of Dengue virus using RT-LAMP assay in serum samples collected from febrile patients. The developed assay was also compared with real-time PCR and serology. I believe this piece of work could provide rapid, sensitive and specific methods for rapid detection for this virus infection in febrile patients, particularly in those areas of endemicity, such as the South East Asia. The manuscript falls within the scope of the BMC infectious Diseases Journal and it would be of interest to the reader of the journal. This manuscript could be accepted after minor corrections.

1. General comments:

The title is rather long and it should be shortened to read: Detection of Dengue viruses Using Reverse-transcription Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification.

2. Specific Comments

The RT-LAMP assay have already been developed and evaluated for detection of Dengue virus as mentioned in the reference list (Reference Number 32; Parida et al., 2005; Reference number 33 Li et al., 2011). However, in the present study a large sample size (n=305) was considered. For this reason, I believe this manuscript should be condensed (shortened) accordingly and published as a short communication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests: no