Author's response to reviews

Title: Performance of Commercial Dengue NS1 ELISA and Molecular Analysis of NS1 Gene of Dengue Viruses Obtained during Dengue Surveillance in Indonesia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We would like to submit our research article entitled "Performance of Commercial Dengue NS1 ELISA and Molecular Analysis of NS1 Gene of Dengue Viruses Obtained during Dengue Surveillance in Indonesia" for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

The article describes the use and performance of commercial dengue NS1 ELISA kit during our surveillance in eight cities across the vast Indonesian archipelago. We observed a quite low sensitivity of the Panbio NS1 ELISA kit when compared to RT-PCR detection as gold standard. In our study, the contributing factors for the low sensitivity of the kit were the city of origin of the samples (geographical location) and the infection status of the patients. We also performed NS1 gene sequence analysis and identified amino acid polymorphisms; however, this apparently did not contribute to the low sensitivity of the NS1 kit. Overall, our data provide new information on the performance of NS1 detection kit in the field/surveillance setting and the genetic characteristics of dengue NS1 gene in Indonesia, in which very limited data is currently available.

Our manuscript has not been submitted or in the process of submission in other journals. All authors have seen the manuscript and agreed for its publication. We hope that this article can be considered for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Sincerely yours,

R. Tedjo Sasmono, Ph.D

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