Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical features and pitfalls in the laboratory diagnosis of dengue in travellers

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

We have performed final revisions of our manuscript “Clinical features and pitfalls in the laboratory diagnosis of dengue in travelers”.

As recommended by referee 2 we have performed two minor changes:

1) On the bottom of page 11 we have briefly described the clinical presentations of the 13 afebrile dengue patients.

2) On page 14, line 5-7: we have included that the false-positive ELISA samples in the early stage of disease (day 1 to 3) were also negative in RT-PCR (and have added that one was positive).

Furthermore, following minor changes have been performed:

3) In the method section, bottom of page six, the sentence “Detectable IgG-antibody titres below 40 U in combination with a negative or low IgM-antibody titre (<10 U) were indicative of probable previous flavivirus infection” was deleted, since in the previous review process the respective result “probable previous flavivirus infections” was deleted to avoid confusion (since it was not important). Because the result was deleted during the second revision, it was not anymore necessary to mention the definition for this observation.

4) By re-calculating all results, a minor number-mistake has been noticed and changed: top of page nine (result section): 1,091 instead of 1,092 fever patients and 1,168 instead of 1,167 diarrhoea patients. As a consequence one fever case was subtracted from the number of fever cases returned from Africa, and one case of diarrhoea was added to the patients who travelled to more than one continent. In figure 2, one case of true-positive PanBio-ELISA was added in the time-period day 1 to 3 (before, the number of all observations shown in the graph did not add up to the observed 127).

5) Few small typographical changes have been performed.

Yours sincerely

Ole Wichmann