Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 10 July 2006

Reviewer: Maria G G Guzman

Reviewer's report:

General

Clinical features and pitfalls in the laboratory diagnosis of dengue in travellers by Wichmann et al

In this new version, results have been clearly presented.

PanBio false positive reactions are observed in samples collected in the first three days and after 15 days of fever onset. Considering the four tests employed by the authors to confirm dengue infection, it is more acceptable that samples late collected are really false positive reactions (No IgM and IgG are detected in these samples). However, it is not well documented that the very early samples will be real false positive reactions: IgG is not expected (only during a second infection) and the sensitivity of IgM detection among the employed tests when IgM concentration is low could be different (in very early samples). Were these samples tested by RT/PCR? If so, results would be presented. A comment on this may be included in the discussion.

13 patients with a dengue virus infection denied a history of fever. It would be good to briefly mention their clinical picture.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What next?: Accept without revision

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'