Reviewer's report

Title: Enzyme-linked immunoassay for dengue virus IgM and IgG antibodies in serum and filter paper blood

Version: 9 Date: 29 November 2005

Reviewer: Jyh-Hsiung Huang

Reviewer's report:

General
1. It should be emphasized that in endemic regions such as Vietnam, repeated dengue and JEV infections are common. Misleading results will be generated for seroprevalence study using ELISA for dengue virus IgG antibodies either in serum or on filter paper due to high cross-reactivity of flavivirus-specific IgG antibodies.
2. It is misleading to quote the WHO guidelines (DHF, 2nd edition, 1997) to differentiate primary and secondary dengue virus infections using the Focus ELISA. To be exact, the WHO guidelines referred to CapIgM/CapIgG ratio, which is very different from Focus ELISA, which is based on CapIgM and Indirect IgG ELISA. All of the references quoted had the same problems on the differentiation of primary and secondary dengue virus infections using the Focus ELISA.

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 after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No