Reviewer’s report

Title: Emergence of A New Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus Strain in Turkey

Version: 2 Date: 28 July 2008

Reviewer: Anna Papa

Reviewer’s report:

The article by Midilli and co-authors reporting a mild case of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever in Turkey, caused by a strain closer to the Greek strain AP92 is very interesting and worth publishing in BMC Infectious Diseases.

I have a few suggestions:

A paragraph with “Material” will be useful. It will include all information about humans and ticks, that means total number, area and time. You can start “A mild CCHF case….”, which is the first sentence of the Methods. Also add the date of the index case. Then, please, write all information concerning humans: the total number of sera tested for the serosurvey, the season and year of sera collection, the region where the survey was performed … (figure 1) and include the two sentences which are in the Methods: “The informed consents ………Helsinki declaration”. In the Material section, please, write the total number of ticks tested (in total 56 ticks) and the region where they were collected. Add the season and the year of tick collection.

Discussion

1st paragraph:

KMAG closely related to AP92 strain reported from Greece [references 11 and, please, add the reference of the authors who sequenced the AP92 in 1994. This is:


2nd paragraph:

Accordingly, individuals infected with AP92 with no recognized disease were reported from Greece [13]. This is not scientifically valid, because AP92 was not
detected by PCR or isolation or neutralization; therefore, it is not known whether
the antibodies found in Greek population were against AP92 strain or any other. I
suggest writing: Accordingly, 4 individuals among 65 tested in the same region
where AP92 strain was isolated in Greece, had antibodies against CCHF virus
without recalling any symptom resembling CCHF (the exact reference here is:
Antoniadis A, Casals J. Serological evidence of human infection with
Sep;31(5):1066-7.).

In the same paragraph, where is the seroprevalence of 1.1% with a range from 0
to 6.3%, the exact reference is: Antoniadis A, Alexiou-Daniel S, Malisiovas N,
Doutsos J, Polyzoni T, Le Duc JW, Peters CJ, Saviolakis G. Seroepidemiological
survey for antibodies to arboviruses in Greece. Arch Virol 1990 [Suppl. 1]:
277-285.

Figure 1.
For an easiest comparison among the distribution rates in the four regions, my
suggestion is to write in the following way: 14/420 (3.33%) instead of Positive 14,
Negative 406, etc.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests