Reviewer's report

Title: Imported Pediatric Malaria at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto Canada: A 16 Year Review

Version: 2 Date: 29 July 2014

Reviewer: David Goldfarb

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a well written retrospective review of the clinical features and outcomes of malaria seen at a large children's hospital. The data provided is useful to clinicians however is obviously limited by the retrospective nature of the study and the fact that only the one institution is included. The authors clearly state limitations of the study. I feel the manuscript would be suitable for publication provided the following issues were addressed:

Discretionary revisions:

1) There are numerous reports (including from Canada) of malaria detected in asymptomatic siblings of symptomatic cases (with detection rates as high as 23% - see attached articles for examples). Some therefore advocate for screening well siblings as hyperparasitemia cases have been described in this group. The authors do not report any cases fitting this category. If siblings are generally not screened then I would at least explain this practice. Also perhaps mention if any cases were known siblings.

2) Line 249 - what proportion of children had blood cultures collected? Essentially all the countries listed are typhoid endemic and given that all the patients had at least a history of fever, blood culture should likely have been collected in most cases. If not, I would mention this in discussion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests