Reviewer’s report

Title: Patterns of Bone Marrow Aspiration Confirmed Hematological Malignancies in Eritrean National Health Laboratory

Version: 2 Date: 07 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Nader Kim El-Mallawany

Reviewer's report:

This revised manuscript offers important data describing the patterns and distribution of hematological malignancies diagnosed via bone marrow aspiration in Eritrea. The authors have made revisions that improve the overall manuscript and have done an excellent job organizing their data and presenting their experience in the manuscript. Their experience establishes the importance of bone marrow evaluations in confirming diagnoses of hematological malignancies in the region.

A couple of minor changes could be made to further enhance the manuscript:

1. The 2nd paragraph of the discussion highlights issues of gender ratios in hematological malignancies. This would seem to be a secondary finding in the study, and not necessarily the most compelling or important of the observations made in this manuscript. If the authors feel strongly about including this paragraph, it would be better placed later in the DISCUSSION section in order to emphasize the principal findings of the study first, and then touch on secondary findings like the gender ratio later.

2. The authors recognize some of the limitations in their study, including the challenges of evaluating the bone marrow without performing core biopsies. But additionally, because the bone marrow evaluation methods were limited to morphological assessment of the aspirations, the authors should note the limitations of morphological assessment in the absence of other important diagnostic tools utilized in bone marrow analyses in high-income countries such as flow cytometry and cytogenetic studies. The authors do mention the challenge between distinguishing ALL from AML and therefore decided to categorize acute leukemias together. But for example, MDS is a very challenging diagnostic entity to establish based purely on morphology, and so it is probably worth mentioning these limitations.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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