Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of simple clinical and laboratory predictors to differentiate influenza from dengue and other febrile illnesses in the emergency room

Version: 2 Date: 16 April 2014

Reviewer: Rashmi Kumar

Reviewer’s report:

1. Exact criteria for diagnosis of dengue and influenza should be mentioned
2. Reference for RT-PCR for dengue and influenza and IgM dengue and NS1 antigen methods and kits used should be stated. Where were these investigations done?
3. How were the patients diagnosed? For eg how many were dengue IgM +ve, how many were NS1 antigen positive etc. Since the patients presented within one week of illness it is possible that IgM for dengue may be negative. So this cannot be used to rule out the diagnosis.
4. What is the sensitivity and specificity of the different tests used at different stages of these illnesses?
5. It may be better to simply compare dengue and influenza as the other febrile illnesses
6. Reference by Kumar et al (2008) on differentiation of dengue from other acute febrile illnesses may be included. The group may also be contaminated with some dengue and influenza patients.

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

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'