Reviewer’s report

Title: Rickettsial infection among military personal deployed in Northern Sri Lanka

Version: 2
Date: 26 April 2014

Reviewer: naoufel kaabia

Reviewer’s report:

1) In methods, how did you calculate the size of the two groups? why 57 patients in the first group? In general the size of the population is calculated according to the local prevalence of the disease and number of population, you have to add this information in methods

2) In results, in the first group, you mentioned that 50 military personnel had serological evidence of exposure to rickettsioses, but the total is 48 (33 cases of SFG+1 case of ST+14 cases of mixed titers)

3) In results, in the 2 groups, you did not mentioned the number of cases with antibodies anti R typhi, you must identify the murine typhus as a group to share

3) In results, group two, it’s difficult to confirm rickettsial infection by only one sample, you need a least Immunoglobulin M and/or a convalescent serum to look for kinetic of Ig G . so in this group it’s also a seroprevalence of rickettsial agents in febrile patients.

4) In results, group 2, you have to give more clinical information about your patients (skin rash, eschare), especially complicated cases, result of lumbar punction and how did you confirmed myocarditis cases.

5) In discussion, you have to compare your results with more others similar populations in others countries

6) Finally, this study should be reviewed by English speaker

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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