Reviewer’s report

Title: Acute undifferentiated fever in India: a multicentre study of aetiology and diagnostic accuracy

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Reviewer: Harriet Mayanja-Kizza

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Acute undifferentiated fever (AUF) in India INFD-D-17-00629

June 2017

I find this manuscript well written, relevant and with well presented methodology, data, results and discussion.

The issue of diagnosis of the multiplicity of infections in developing countries has been an enigma over the years.

This paper used a multicentre study, employing routine and gold standard blood diagnostic tests to answer the questions on prevalence and causes of AUF in India.

Minor Issues to consider

1. The HIV status of the patients is not included. This would have been useful if the data was available.

2. In the same vein, no mycobacteriosis was looked for in this study. In one study done in Uganda, mycobacteriosis accounted for about a quarter of the sepsis of undefined cause in an HIV population of in patients.

3. It would have been useful to group the diseases by clinically relevant age groups, e.g. the very young, below 5 years and the older population above 60 years, as the prevalence and issues of diagnosis have different challenges at these extremes of age.

4. The authors did allude to the complexity of differentiation between active disease, past disease, or asymptomatic carrier issues, and described this well in the discussion.

In a clinical setting these are areas that can be addressed by the attending clinician. The same applies to co- infection, as not all infections indicate disease; this can be emphasized more.
5. This paper made me excited about a possibility of multiplex POC serology tests for common infections in high endemic countries. The authors could probably point to this in the discussion - as this may be the future of infection diagnosis in our settings.

Overall, this is an excellent well written paper.

**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.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**  
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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

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