Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Archana Sud

Reviewer’s report:

The study is not terribly well designed nor is the working hypothesis very clearly stated.

It is not clear why these particular pathogens were picked for testing as cause for an acute febrile illness.

Whereas Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya serologies are relevant are there any data to suggest leptospira and scrub typhus as common diagnoses in this setting?

There is no mention of a full blood count, liver functions, chest X ray, a urine culture; all of these would be part of routine investigations for an undiagnosed acute fever and aid and guide etiological testing.

Relying on PCR for diagnosing malaria without any mention of thick and thin films is unusual.

Absence of convalescent serology perhaps under estimates some of the etiological diagnoses tested for. Under study conditions ideally convalescent serology should be done.

Cross reactions should be considered when multiple etiologies are being suggested on basis of serology.

The discussion is really long winded and as such an elaboration of the already stated results--a focus of interest would be good.

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

No

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

No

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal