Reviewer’s report

Title: Genetic diversity of Leishmania donovani that causes cutaneous leishmaniasis in Sri Lanka: a cross sectional study with regional comparisons

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Reviewer: Ibrahim Babikir

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Title: Genetic diversity of Leishmania donovani that causes cutaneous leishmaniasis in Sri Lanka

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Dear authors,

First of all, it was a pleasure for me to read your article. It is a very interesting report. After reading the manuscript the following raised points represent a suggestion to add to the manuscript:

Reviewer points from the pdf version;

1- Background

- This section looks good and well written; however, there are too much cited references. It would be enough when needed to cite 2-3 references for your documentation

Materials and Methods

- Materials and Methods (Page 4, line 89) please, correct to "Methods" or "Patients and Methods". As you deal with patients (human) in your study not only materials.

- What was the type of the study?

- I think it will be more informative when you start this section with some information regarding your patients, study settings and population. Sample size and sample technique.

- Methods (Page 4, line 105) what type of in-vitro culture has been used, incubation and interpretation of results.
Results

- Some parts of your results look like discussion, please state only your results and move these comments to the discussion section. e.g.:

- line 190 (indicating the highly diverse nature of the Indian isolates)
- line 193 (that can be considered as an indication for …)
- line 199 (suggestive of …)
- line 209 (which might demonstrate the effects of …)

Discussion

- The association between L. donovani in Sri Lanka and Nepal in the genetic diversity, population structure, phylogenetic relationships is not fully understood.
- The genetic differentiation between CL-DR and CL-S to antimonial drug resistance is not clear.
- The role of genetic diversity of L. donovani in Sri Lanka to their antimonial sensitivity is not clear.
- (Page 11, line 271) please correct,
- (There were 3 …), any number less than 10 please write in alphabet. (There were three …)
- (line 275) the 3 clinical groups (the three clinical groups …)

Conclusion

- Please try to well describe the above points in the discussion section before add them to the conclusion section

Good luck for the publication process.

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?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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