Reviewer's report

Title: Dengue Score as a diagnostic predictor for pleural effusion and/or ascites: External validation and clinical application

Version: 0 Date: 11 May 2017

Reviewer: Siripen Kalayanarooj

Reviewer's report:

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General:

In the title 'diagnostic predictor', the term predictor may not be applied in this study because 2 of them (Hemoconcentration => 15.1 and albumin < 3.49) are the evidence of plasma leakage. Plasma leakage had occurred sometimes so they are not the predictors? The other parameters, platelet count =< 49,500 is usually the helpful indicator for plasma leakage. AST ratio => 2.51 is the common findings in dengue infections. It is found in both DF and DHF, so it may not be a good predictor of plasma leakage. The higher ratio may be used instead.

The term 'parameter' may be used instead of 'predictor'.

Clinical application of these 3 parameters (except AST ratio) may be to late for many patients (Hemoconcentration, low serum albumin and platelet < 49,500) are usually found late in the course of DHF illness. Earlier signs/parameters to predict plasma leakage in dengue patients are best for clinical application, not a late signs/parameters that used in this study.

Methods:

- Why Hemoconcentration => 15.1% is used (instead of => 20%) and o AST ratio of => 2.51 were used as the dengue score?
- Please give more detail on NS1 Ag used in this study. Many cases especially those who came late to the hospital, especially those with shock, the NS1Ag are usually not detected? What brand, sensitivity and day of fever that NS1Ag was done in each patients?

Tables:
- Table 1 - please add all parameters that were used for dengue score: Hemoconcentration => 15.1%, alb =< 3.49, platelet =< 49,500 and AST ratio => 2.51.
Or add one more table to show each parameter that were found in all study groups, group dengue score =<1, = 2 and =>3.

Discussion:
- Please use only group dengue score =<1, = 2 and =>3. On line 179, 190, 208,...the authors used the term group=<2! Which is equal to group =< 1? This had made the readers confused!

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.
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?
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