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

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Katie Anderson

Reviewer's report:
This manuscript seeks to perform external validation of the Dengue Score (intended to predict plasma leakage, and based upon AST, albumin, HCT, and platelet count). The Dengue Score was retrospectively applied to data from ~200 inpatients in a Jakarta hospital over a 5-year period.

MAJOR COMMENTS.
- As currently performed, this analysis does not appear to add much to the literature regarding risk factors for plasma leakage or the clinical evaluation of dengue infection in general. The major finding of this study is that Dengue Score was found to correlate with hemoconcentration, thrombocytopenia, and severe dengue (which includes plasma leakage and organ damage) - each of these items is reflected to some degree within the calculation of the Dengue Score, therefore their correlation is not surprising.
- The authors state that the Dengue Score may be useful in identifying which patients may need to be admitted to the hospital, however the applied measurements (presumably maximum HCT concentration, minimum PLT measurement) are derived from later in the hospitalization. Their analysis does not support these conclusions.
- Despite the above comments, this is an interesting cohort with seemingly abundant clinical data available. Perhaps a more valuable analysis would consider how laboratory or other clinical factors on admission may predict plasma leakage.

MINOR COMMENTS.
- This reviewer is not familiar with application of the Hosmer Lemeshaw test for calibration; recommend statistical review as indicated.
- Page 5, line 56: it is a little confusing (circular?) to state that length of stay affects management of dengue.

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

**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

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I recommend additional statistical review

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