Reviewer's report

Title: Severe Fever with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome: Comparison with Scrub Typhus and Clinical Diagnostic Prediction

Version: 0 Date: 17 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Masayuki Saijo

Reviewer's report:

The authors studied the differential diagnostics of SFTS from scrub typhus or of scrub typhus from SFTS based on the clinical parameters in South Korea, in which both diseases are endemic. The study has been done in a retrospective manner using the data collected from patients with SFTS and those with scrub typhus. It is evident that this kind of study should be performed in a prospective manner. However, the study design, in which relatively large number of patients with SFTS and of those of scrub typhus were included, is well considered and the manuscript is well written. The scoring system to predict the differential diagnosis of SFTS and scrub typhus might be beneficial in the clinical setting in the areas, where both diseases are endemic.

Major comments:

The form of reference should be unified according the authors instruction for BMC Infectious Diseases.

Specific comments

1. Page 5, Line 63: The sentence "Severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS) is emerging in scrub typhus endemic areas" is a misleading description. SFTS is not emerging in such areas.
2. Page 5, Line 70: "A SFTS" should be "An SFTS".
3. Page 7, Line 95-96: The sentence "These 3 countries are also endemic for scrub typhus caused by Orientia tsutsugamushi" should be corrected to "Orientia tsutsugamushi is endemic to these 3 countries".
4. Page 7, Line 102: "they are transmitted to humans through ticks and mites bites mostly during outdoor activities" should be corrected to "SFTS and O. tsutsugamushi are transmitted to humans through ticks and mites bites mostly, respectively, during outdoor activities".
5. Page 7, Line 105: "important" might be "difficult".
6. Page 10, Line 154: "A SFTS" should be "An SFTS".
7. Page 10, Line 154: "positive" should be "-positive".
8. Page 10, Line 159: This reviewer prefers to use the term "consciousness" instead of using "mentality".
9. Page 15, Line 244: "easily" should be deleted.

**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.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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