Author’s response to reviews

Title: Imported Cases of Chikungunya Virus in Iran

Authors:

Mohammad Hassan Pouriayevali (M.h.Pouria@gmail.com)
Farshid Rezaei (Dr.rezaei@live.com)
Tahmineh Jalali (jalalitahmineh@gmail.com)
Vahid Baniasadi (baniasadi.vahid@gmail.com)
Mehdi Fazlalipour (mfp.virology@gmail.com)
Ehsan Mostafavi (mostafaviehsan@gmail.com)
Sahar Khakifirouz (sahar_khakifirouz@yahoo.com)
Tahereh Mohammadi (tahereh.mohammadi12@gmail.com)
Zahra Fereydooni (zahrafereydouni70@gmail.com)
Mahsa Tavakoli (mahsa.tavakolirad@gmail.com)
Sanam Azad-Manjiri (s.a_92@yahoo.com)
Motahareh Hosseini (mt.hosseini1991@gmail.com)
Mahsa Ghalejoogh (mahsaghalejoogh@gmail.com)
Mohammad Mehdi Gouya (mgouya57@gmail.com)
Anna-Bella Failloux (anna-bella.failloux@pasteur.fr)
Mostafa Salehi-Vaziri (Mostafavaziri1985@gmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Authors’ Responses to Reviewers’ Comments

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for getting back to us with the reviewers’ comments. We appreciate your reviewers’ time and helpful comments. We have addressed the remarks of the reviewers, and hope the revised version of the manuscript meets the expectations of your respected reviewers.
Reviewer #1

1- It is suggested that fever (page 3 line 58) should be mentioned in Farenheit instead of degree Celsius.
Authors’ Response: It has been revised according to the comment (Page 3, line 61) and (Page 13, line 256).

Reviewer #2

1. Authors have to introduce in the Introduction part the genome organization of CHIKV that will be of a great utility for lectures.
Authors’ Response: Many thanks for your valuable comment. Your suggestion has been added to the introduction (Page 3, line 49-52).

2. Authors stated, and I can easily understand, that it's difficult to obtain signed informed consent, but it's necessary to have the ethical approval. Please add a paragraph with the ethical consideration and give the reference of the ethical approval.
Authors’ Response: The Ethical statement was improved based on your comment (Page 5, line 89-91).

3. Diagnosis test was done according to the interval between dates of sampling and onset of disease. I think that authors have to introduce the viral cycle to show that after disease onset, only viral RNA can be detected and IgG and IgM antibodies could be detected only after 5 days.
Authors’ Response: The manuscript has been revised in accordance with the your valuable comment (Page 6, line 108-110).

4. Please specify if the FTD commercial Dengue / CHIKV contains an internal control to be sure that we cannot have false negative samples.
Authors’ Response: It has been added to the text (Page 6, line 120-121).

5. Results of CHIKV detection was presented for cases diagnosed by molecular tests and for cases diagnosed by immunological tests. I think that authors could give results for the 3 categories and the positivity of each category. It will be of a great interest to assess difference between techniques and highlight the importance of using such technique.
   - How much cases were positive among the 8 samples analyzed only by molecular testing?
   - How much cases were positive by molecular testing and by immunological approach among the 72 cases?
   - How much cases were positive by the immunological approach among the 79 cases?
Authors’ Response: The result section has been revised according to your comment. We have classified sample to three categories (1-3) (Page 8, Line 154-155, 156, 159).

Reviewer #3

1- Line 22: Should read "the current study is aimed"
Authors’ Response: Many thanks for your detailed consideration. Done (Page 2, Line 21-22)

2- Line 31: Replace "Totally" with "In total"
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 2, line 31).

3- Line 47: Insert "genome" after "RNA"
Authors’ Response: Description of CHIKV genome has been added according to your and Reviewers 2 comments. (Page 3, line 40-52).

4- Line 53: Delete "the" before CHIKV. Also "human" should be plural "humans"
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 3, line 57).

5- Line 56: Again, "human" should be plural
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 3, Line 59)

6- Line 57: Delete "of" from between seven-day and incubation
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 3, Line 60)

7- Line 61: Delete "the" from "of the cases"
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 4, Line 64)

8- Line 73 - 74: "large quantity of travelling" should read "large incidence of travel"
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 4, Line 77-78)

9- Line 76: Delete "the" before "virus importation"
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 4, Line 80)

10-Line 84: Insert "the" between "to retrospective" (Page 5, Line 88)
Authors’ Response: Done

11-Line 164 - 165: Three mutations are mentioned but four examples are given, is it three or four mutations?
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 9, Line 174)

12- Line 208: Typo - "stains" should read "strains"
Authors’ Response: Done (Page 11, Line 218)

13- Line 218: The reference for the outbreak in Italy seems a bit remote from the original reporting of the outbreak. It would be more relevant to reference the original outbreak report, given below:

R Angelini AC Finarelli, P Angelini, C Po, K Petropulacos, P Macini, C Fiorentini, C Fortuna4, G Venturi, R Romi, G Majori, L Nicoletti, G Rezza, A Cassone. An outbreak of chikungunya fever in the
Reviewer #4

Reviewer 4:

1- The authors have very well written their manuscript, including the construction, but their conclusions seem to be not appropriate and far-fetched. Although they succeed in linking the cases in Iran to those in Pakistan, they provide no definition of "import cases" or travel history of the cases. Therefore, I would limit the conclusion to:

1. There are cases in Iran

2. They are closely related to the cases in Pakistan

3. It remains to be shown that the virus is spreading in Iran

Authors’ Response: Many thanks for your improving comment. The conclusion has been revised based on your comment (Page 13, Line 265-267).