Reviewer’s report

Title: Imported Cases of Chikungunya Virus in Iran

Version: 0 Date: 14 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Mohammed El Mzibri

Reviewer's report:

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Reviewing comments

In this paper, authors tried to investigate chikungunya virus (CHIKV) infection in two regions of Iran: Sistan and Baluchistan provinces, located in the southeast region of the country in the border line with Pakistan. The paper in interesting evaluating the presence of CHIKV in suspected individuals in these region, highlighting the dynamic of infection across countries and the urgent need to set up health policies for surveillance system enhancement and to limit viral introduction and dissemination in the country.

Well, in my opinion I think that this paper is of a great interest to characterize viral infection and contributes to sensitize decision-makers to set up strategies for better management of health.

The paper is very interesting and very informative. However, some major concerns should be addressed before acceptation.

1. Authors have to introduce in the Introduction part the genome organization of CHIKV that will be of a great utility for lectures.

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.

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.

4. Please specify if the FTD commercial Dengue / CHIKV contains an internal control to be sure that we cannot have false negative samples.

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?

**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.

Unable to assess

**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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable
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