Reviewer’s report
Title: The challenge of maintaining microscopist capacity at basic levels for malaria elimination in Jiangsu Province, China

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Reviewer: Renu Wickremasinghe

Reviewer's report:
Comments
General comments.
A well written and timely manuscript, a problem faced by many countries that have eliminated malaria and those countries in the process of doing so. There is no mention if ethical clearance was obtained as human subjects were interviewed.

Background
The background is insufficient, more details on the malaria situation in the provinces studies should be included. The prevalence of malaria before elimination, how many imported malaria cases yearly since elimination up until the study period and why this particular region was chosen should be included. Why was this particular period selected for this study.

Line 75 delete cases

Methods
Malaria in Jiangsu and Nantong from 2000 to 2014

Suggest re-writing the paragraph, it lacks clarity.
All figures do not have legends nor titles.

Figure 3 and figure 4 What is A and B?
Capacity of microscopists at a basic level
- describe more on the experience of the microscopists. It is mentioned in the table but not in the text. It is important to address the relationship between experience and skills in diagnosis in the results and discussion.

I feel it is better to give a few more examples of re-emergence of the disease.

Replace line 311 and 312 "other morphological confused materials, i.e. the impurities or blood components". with artifacts

**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.
No

**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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable
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