Reviewer’s report

Title: Traceability and distribution of Neisseria meningitidis DNA in archived post mortem tissue samples from patients with systemic meningococcal disease.

Version: 0 Date: 14 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Adriano Tagliabracci

Reviewer's report:

Introduction.

The manuscript offers genetic data of FFPE and fresh frozen post-mortem tissues from seven patients with systemic meningococcal disease; they provide observations of the possibility of detection in different tissues and different time of storage.

Merits.

The paper is within the scope of the journal. The study focused on a relevant issue for pathology and it underlines the usefulness of fresh frozen collection for further testing in case of systemic meningococcal disease. The research is also well designed in the molecular study and this is shown also by the use of a DNA-degradation marker (HBB gene).

Critique.

Collected samples are few (seven) even if the numbers and type of organs are consistent. The authors should better explain that the negative results in the two 28 years old specimen could be a false negative result due to the degradation, i.e. non detectable DNA.

Additional comments for authors

- p.5 line 28: the acronym should be moved in p.4 line 15 where it is cited first

- p.15 line 1: since two papers were cited, add the "Guarnier et al in the text"

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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