Reviewer’s report

Title: Gene expression profiling in blood from cerebral malaria patients and mild malaria patients living in Senegal

Version: 1 Date: 16 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Alister Craig

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed the major issues raised in my previous review and the new section in the discussion highlights some of the limitations of the study. Despite these limitations, which are very much a part of clinical studies, the findings are of interest and join a growing database of transcriptional findings using patient samples. Yes, sampling of different cell types, particularly endothelium, would have been better and blood samples taken along a 3-4 day time course would also have helped to support causation, but these are very difficult to implement and would also increase the costs of the study substantially. Overall, the authors have examined their data carefully, and now provide suitable analyses and comments, particularly highlighting where previous work comes from human or animal data. I'm not sure that I agree with their focus on certain areas of immune cell responses as being critical in CM pathogenesis, but the information is presented honestly and comprehensively, so investigators can make up their own minds.

Minor point - "MHC" is misspelt "CMH" on line 333.

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?
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Yes
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I recommend additional statistical review

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