

Gender and Prevalence of Dengue Fever

Dear Editor,

We read the publication on “Prevalence of dengue fever in Western Uttar Pradesh, India: A gender-based study” with a great interest.^[1] Kumar *et al.* noted that “Every case of dengue must be screened for NS1Ag and IgMab to increase the diagnostic precision, despite the males being more affected as compared to females due to sociocultural differences.^[1]” We would like to share ideas on this report. First, despite the use of both antibody and antigen test, there is still a chance of false result and there is still a possibility of concurrent infection (such as Chikungunya infection).^[2] In addition, the use of immune-screening test for dengue should be carefully considered for cost-effectiveness. Although there is a previous study from India showing that the immunological screening for dengue was superior than molecular-based screening,^[3] there is still no comparative cost-effectiveness analysis for immunological screening versus classical clinical diagnosis. In endemic area, the diagnosis of dengue is generally based on the clinical diagnosis.^[2] Regarding sexual difference, the exact relationship between sociocultural background and gender-specific dengue infection rate should be further assessed. In fact, in endemic developing country,^[4] additional factors that are related to preventive behavior against dengue also include educational background and age.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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