November 23, 2024

Dr Tim Wreghitt OBE

Associate Editor, Epidemiology & Infection

**Dear Dr. Wreghitt,**

Please find attached the article “HYG-2024-14065.R2” entitled “The 2023 Fatal Dengue Outbreak in Bangladesh Highlights a Paradigm Shift of Geographical Distribution of Cases” for your consideration in your journal. We have addressed the concerns that the reviewer and editor have raised or justified our position and are confident that the reviewer (s) will be satisfied with our response and updated version of the manuscript for publication.

As we have taken your advice through emails on 14 November 2024, we have incorporated your suggestions. Regarding the Q1 of the Referee 2 on the ongoing global dengue outbreak, we have added information on the global scenario on at the beginning of the introduction. To address the other part of Q1, we have included the fatality ratio of dengue cases in Bangladesh (2023 and other previous years) and across the world. However, to avoid any substantial increase in the length of the article, we kept our discussion limited and succinct.

The reviewer also suggested we address whether the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the environment, economy, or health-seeking behavior in ways that may have affected dengue case management. While we could offer some speculative comments, such a discussion falls beyond our research scope and would involve assumptions that could be seen as contentious. We are thus hesitant to include such content without clearer relevance to our primary findings.

Although the reviewer mentioned about mortality rate, we have chosen to use the term ‘case-fatality ratio’ (CFR) rather than ‘mortality rate’. The term ‘mortality rate’ typically refers to the rate of deaths within a population (e.g., child mortality rates). In contrast, the case-fatality ratio specifically measures the proportion of deaths among individuals diagnosed with a particular disease, such as dengue. Therefore, CFR is more appropriate for indicating the severity of dengue.

Sincerely,

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