Regarding “Dengue—How Best to Classify It”

Naeema A. Akbar1, Iván Allende2, Angel Balmaseda3, Ivo C. B. Coelho4, Rivaldo V. da Cunha5, Biket Oskula6, S. Shamala Devi7, Jeremy Farrar8, Roger Gaczkowski9, Maria G. Guzman10, Eva Harris11, Tran T. Hien12, Olaf Horstick12, Nguyen T. Hung13, Thomas Jänisch9, Thomas Junghanss9, Axel Kroeger14, Ida S. Laksono15, Lucy C. S. Lum16, Gabriela M. Marden17, Eric Martinez10, Ajay Mishra18, Eng E. Ooi19, Ernesto B. Pleties17, Gladys Ramirez20, Kerstin Rosenberger9, Cameron P. Simmons8, Joao B. Siqueira Jr21, Carmen Soria22, Lian H. Tan23, Tran T. Thuy24, Iris Villalobos25, Elsa Villegas26, and Bridget Wills8

Author Affiliations

Correspondence: Thomas Jänisch, MD, PhD, Section Clinical Tropical Medicine, Department for Infectious Diseases, Heidelberg University Hospital, Im Neuenheimer Feld 324, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany (thomas.janisch@hwr.uni-heidelberg.de).

TO THE EDITOR—The 2009 World Health Organization (WHO) revised dengue classification has been welcomed by many and questioned by some [1]. Since the 1980s, a broad consensus has developed among the clinical dengue community that the dengue fever (DF)/dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF)/dengue shock syndrome (DSS) classification was both essentially retrospective and overly complex, limiting its usefulness for patient management and global surveillance [2-8]. Following calls for revision of the system, evidence including data from a large prospective study enrolling >2000 patients across 7 endemic countries was reviewed at an expert meeting convened by WHO in 2008, after which the new, simpler classification was adopted. Since then, other studies have looked at the effectiveness of the revised classification ...

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