

Peer Review

Review of: "Molecular Characterization of *Vibrio cholerae* Outbreak Isolates from Western India"

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1. The surveillance of a cholera outbreak is important. However, the collection of 5 strains from the outbreak is not sufficient.
2. The Nashik strain is closely related to the newly discovered polymyxin B-sensitive strain—are they more virulent?
3. Whether the author has performed any virulence assay to quantify the virulence factor expression.
4. Does the author want to emphasize that these new variants are more virulent in comparison to the previous strains?

Other comments: Please unify the font type in the title of this work.

1. Page no. 1, abstract: "*V.cholerae*" should be "*V. cholerae*" (incorrect spacing).
2. Page no. 2, materials and methods: Awkward phrasing "**approval taken for conducting post outbreak**". Suggested: "**approval was obtained for post-outbreak investigations.**"
3. Page no. 3, paragraph 1: "The isolates plated on" should be "The isolates were plated on."
4. Page no. 3, PCR assay: It may have to be elaborated on the methodology for singleplex PCR and post-PCR for identification. Also, there is an extra punctuation mark in "To confirm the identity of the PCR products, both the strands of amplified products were sequenced. using Big-Dye terminator cycle sequencing kit."
5. Page no. 4: In the last paragraph of the phylogenetic tree methodology, "gap regions removed" should be "gap regions were removed."
6. Page no. 4: Results and discussion, paragraph no. 2, grammar error "**are atypical El Tor strains diverged from...**" Suggested: "**are atypical El Tor strains that diverged from...**"

7. Page no. 4: Results and discussion, paragraph no. 2, **"is included in second cluster"** – Add article: **"is included in the second cluster."**
8. Page no. 6, fig. 1: Figure legends such as **"First and second wave are in blue color and third wave is in violet color."** Prefer more formal language.
9. Page no. 9: **"this has been reported that N64S..."** Suggested: **"It has been reported that the N64S mutation..."**
10. Page no. 9: **"tcpA not only play a role..."** should be **"tcpA not only plays a role..."**
11. Page no. 9, conclusion: Unclear **"providing evidence for more than microbial etiology."** Better: **"providing evidence for multiple microbial etiologies."**

With such modifications, this MS can be accepted for publication.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.