

# Review of: "[Research Note] Dengue – Therapeutic Efforts in Mexico"

Bruno Pozzetto<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Université Jean Monnet

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper deals with a worldwide problem of Public Health that affects principally tropical and subtropical countries. Under this aspect, it is not possible to speak of worldwide pandemic despite the fact that several billions of subjects are exposed and that the climate change may transform dengue in a pandemic disease. Regarding the matter of this minireview (note), the scientific content is very limited. The following points would be interesting to develop.

Before speaking of potential treatments, it would be necessary to define the need of treating dengue; what is the burden of dengue in a country like Mexico. How many patients need hospitalization? What is the rate of severe cases who need an admission in intensive care units?

The use of traditional therapeutics is interesting to mention but the purpose of these treatments is not clear. In a disease with 80 to 90% of asymptomatic or low-symptomatic cases, it is difficult to valuate the benefit of such traditional approaches. The same remarks can be done for large-scaled diseases like flu.

Sterilization of mosquitoes is not a therapeutic approach.

The antiviral treatments that are mentioned are solely in vitro. As shown for SARS-CoV-2 with too much disillusion, a mild in vitro effect on virus cultivated in cell culture is not predictive of a substantial benefit when experimented in vivo. Pharmaceutical companies are testing hundreds of drugs against different emerging viruses but very few compounds reach the step of human experiments. Given the sad experience we had with SARS-CoV-2 in France, I guess it is essential to well characterize antiviral compounds against a given virus before to start in vivo experiments.