

Reviewer 1

Major comments:

Authors should describe how is done the surveillance of leptospirosis in Greece (reference center? mandatory?)

Authors response: Thank the reviewer for the comment. After the catastrophic floods in Thessaly the National Public Health Organization (EODY) announced emergency mandatory surveillance of leptospirosis for Central Greece. Despite the fact of the floods in Greece the leptospirosis is mandatory surveillance for private and public health sectors. Available at: <https://eody.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/dd-2020-%CE%9B%CE%B5%CF%80%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%80%CE%B5%CE%AF%CF%81%CF%89%CF%83%CE%B7.pdf>

We added the part *“All cases referred to EODY mandatory reference center by our team”*.

Authors mention 35 patients, including 13 confirmed by serology and/or PCR. Please describe the methods used (ELISA IgM, MAT, PCR) and the case definition used in this study (probable / confirmed cases). what about the 22 other cases not confirmed by laboratory diagnosis, why are they included in the leptospirosis cases?

Authors response: Thank the reviewer for the comment. We added the part, “According to Greek public health organization (EODY) the inclusion criteria for symptomatic individuals who presenting to emergency department of University Hospital of Larissa with a complaint of febrile illness (temperature >38°C), headache, myalgia, and physical weakness associated with any of the following symptoms: conjunctival suffusion/conjunctival haemorrhage, meningeal irritation, anuria or oliguria/proteinuria/haematuria, jaundice, haemorrhage, purpuric skin rash, or cardiac arrhythmia/failure and report works at flood areas of Thessaly after the Daniel floods. The 22 cases included because completed the initial criteria for investigation for leptospira. “The recent study was performed at the University Hospital of Larissa, a large academic institution, and one of the total five hospitals of Thessaly which addressed the recent emergency public health issue after Daniel Floods. A total of 35 patients were investigated. Serum and human blood were collected in sterile biological containers and processed for molecular detection/confirmation of *Leptospira* spp. The method was used by university hospital of Larissa for serologic confirmation was an ELISA (Institut Viron Serion GmGH, Warburg, Germany) as directed by the manufacturer to check matched serum specimens for the presence of particular *Leptospira* immunoglobulin (Ig) M. Three qualitative responses were obtained from the ELISA: positive, negative, and ambiguous (borderline positive/negative)”.

Authors claim a higher proportion of females but among the laboratory confirmed cases this corresponds to only 7 females/ 13 cases; sampling is small and non-significant.

Authors response: Thank the reviewer for the comment. We modified the text accordingly.

resolution of figures is low

Authors response: We modified the analysis of figures.

they are some redundancy in the introduction: for example, lines 32-33 and 41-42.

Authors response: Thank the reviewer for the comment. We modified the text accordingly.

Table 1: please mention the sampling date and prefecture for each case to show they all belong to the same (or different) clusters. For laboratory confirmation, please indicate which methods was used.

Authors response: Thank the reviewer for the comment. We modified the text accordingly and we added the date and the region on table and finally we corrected the typo error of the percentages. About the laboratory methods, our approach for the present study is by the emergency department of university hospital of Larissa for this emergency public health topic and the results concern the procedures for our section. Unfortunately, we didn't have any access to laboratory methods but only to results of our patients. For these reasons we choose to submit the "communication article and not full article". We acknowledge that is a limitation. However, we added the part. "The recent study was performed at the University Hospital of Larissa, a large academic institution, and one of the total five hospitals of Thessaly which addressed the recent emergency public health issue after Daniel Floods. A total of 35 patients were investigated. Serum and human blood were collected in sterile biological containers and processed for molecular detection/confirmation of *Leptospira* spp. The method was used by university hospital of Larissa for serologic confirmation was an ELISA (Institut Viron Serion GmGH, Warburg, Germany) as directed by the manufacturer to check matched serum specimens for the presence of particular *Leptospira* immunoglobulin (Ig) M. Three qualitative responses were obtained from the ELISA: positive, negative, and ambiguous (borderline positive/negative). Regarding to PCR results, samples where characterized as positive or negative according to detection of *Leptospira* DNA. Real Time qPCR was used for molecular diagnosis".