



Reply



Dear Editor,

We appreciate Professor Wiwanitkit's well-advised comments on our paper "Why Zika virus infection has become a public health concern?" In his letter, Professor Wiwanitkit shared his concerns regarding the prevention of maternal Zika virus (ZIKV) infection in the public health government level. This was our main concern as well. As Joob and Wiwanitkit¹ mentioned, it is very difficult to diagnose ZIKV infection early and to differentiate it from other tropical infections; besides, it is hard to prevent other mosquito-borne diseases, which are also caused by the bite of infected mosquito species.² We agree with the results presented by Joob and Wiwanitkit¹ and shared in our original paper the concerns about the existing knowledge of maternal ZIKV infection and possible connection between ZIKV infection and microcephaly in babies.³ At present, no vaccine is available for treating ZIKV infection, and thus potential effective methods to prevent this infection include implementing control measures to avoid mosquito bites, reducing sexual transmission, and controlling the mosquito vectors. Methods to reduce infections among pregnant women include avoiding or postponing travel to areas with ongoing ZIKV transmission, avoiding unprotected sexual contact with partners who are at risk of ZIKV infection, and adherence to measures for protection against mosquito bites.^{4,5} To strengthen the regional capacity to address public threats, the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control held workshop lectures under the US–Taiwan Global Cooperation training framework on molecular diagnosis for Zika on April 13, 2016, which discussed a three-in-one laboratory test for Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, which is capable of providing results for these three vector-borne diseases in 3 hours. This is hoped to be an important diagnosis tool for infection detection in Taiwan in the future.⁶

Conflicts of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest related to the subject matter or materials discussed in this article.

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