Introduction:

Limitations:

- Zika Virus (ZIKV), Dengue Virus (DENV), West Nile Virus, and Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) have similar signs and symptoms.
- DENV and CHIKV outbreak in early 2015 in the same area being studied
- There is no certainty of Zika virus (ZIKV) cases due to lack of serologic test
- Only rtPCR can diagnose ZIKV—that is, only on the first day of acute infection (still, cross reactions can give a false positive)
- rtPCR cannot diagnose infection in infants, infants are diagnosed clinically- microcephaly
- 80% of ZIKV cases are unsymptomatic or oligosymptomatic (having few or minor symptoms)
- The area being studied is endemic to the mosquito (A. aegypti), which is a vector for DENV, CHIKV, West Nile Virus, and ZIKV
- Coinfection of these viruses is not uncommon

Issues

1. There is tons of background and history about the 3 viruses (CHIKV,ZIKV, and DENV), the mosquito vector (A. egyptii), and statistics on microcephaly, but nothing on congenital ocular lesions.
   a. You should add at least a paragraph on the average yearly prevalence of congenital ocular lesions, and how the rates are different now (parallel to the number of congenital ZIKV and microcephaly).

2. Introduction, 2nd to last paragraph: You bring up a study done in January 2016 in Recife, Brazil: 3 infants having ocular lesions. Do they have presumed Zika Virus (it’s not stated)? Why was this included in the paper if the study came out after your study?
Methods:

• Issues

1. **Methods, Study Site— 3rd paragraph:** You should explain why the head circumference criterion was reduced and provide the average circumference of healthy infants as a reference.

2. **Methods, Patients/Inclusion criteria of Mothers and infants— First paragraph:** Why weren’t Dengue Virus, West Nile Virus, and Chikungunya Virus ruled out through serological testing? After all, these viruses are exceptionally similar to Zika Virus and are also congenital infections. In addition, West Nile Virus has been previously associated with ocular lesions.
   
   a. These babies could actually have DENV or CHIKV, and not ZIKV
   
   b. You should include a sentence explaining why DENV and CHIKV were not excluded serologically.

3. **Methods, Patients/Inclusion criteria of Mothers and infants— Last paragraph:** The suspected diagnoses of congenital ZIKV was also based on clinical features including: headache, arthralgia, and malaise...These are all normal pregnancy symptoms—
   
   a. Do you think it is valid to include these symptoms???
      
      i. Symptoms of mothers should be summarized on a table. It is possible that the 6 infants of the mothers who had no symptoms are apart of the 10 who had ocular lesions. There is no way to know.
   
   b. Why is this paragraph in the inclusion criteria if 20% of mothers did not have symptoms and you still included them?

Results:

• Issues

1. I have no issues with the results because a case-series study just describes observations.

Discussion:

• Issues

1. **Discussion, 2nd paragraph:** You are saying that you hypothesized (before study was done) a cause and effect relationship. This is a descriptive study, there should
be no hypothesis. Having a hypothesis seem biased. And no hypothesis testing was done.

**Conclusions:**

- **Issues**
  1. *Conclusion, 1st paragraph:* “These findings can contribute...” Why even put this sentence in the article?
    - a. You contradict your entire study because West Nile Virus was not controlled for serologically