Reviewer’s report

Title: Frequency of tuberculous and non tuberculosis mycobacteria in HIV infected patients from Bogota (Colombia)

Authors:
Martha I Murcia (mimurcia@usa.net)
Jorge E Gomez-Marin (jegomezmarin@hotmail.com)
Fernando S Alvarado (falvarado@cfl.rr.com)
Jose G Bustillo (jubustill@hotmail.com)
Ellen Mendivelson (hospitalsimonbolivar@yahoo.com)
Bertha Gomez (berthaiss@latinmail.com)
Clara I Leon (cleon@hemagogus.ins.gov.co)
William A Triana (watrianr@hotmail.com)
Erwing A Vargas (vsafe7@latinmail.com)
Edgar Rodriguez (e_rodriguez_beltran@altavista.com)

Version: 2 Date: 24 Sep 2001
Reviewer: Dr Jaime Esteban

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

The article is interesting because it shows data about the association between HIV and mycobacterial disease in a country with high prevalence of tuberculosis. However, some corrections must be made.

In the abstract, a description of the stage classification must be performed in the materials and methods section. Moreover, in the results section, the number of patients with positive acid fast stains must be recorded together with the number of samples.

In the materials and methods section, it is very important to give references about the techniques employed in the laboratory.

In the results section, as in all the manuscript, it is necessary to distinguish between M. avium infection and M. tuberculosis infection. Although initially both could be mixed, clinical, microbiological, epidemiological and therapeutical characteristics were so different that they must be analysed independently. This indication must also be performed in the tables.

Competing interests:
None declared.