Reviewer's report

Title: Risk of Latent TB infection in individuals employed in the health care sector in Germany: a multi center prevalence study

Version: 1 Date: 26 November 2009

Reviewer: Delia Goletti

Reviewer's report:

The authors evaluate the prevalence and putative risk factors of LTBI in the health care sector in the German hospitals.

The found a positive IGRA in 9.9% of the health care workers (HCWs) and that the putative risk factors for LTBI were age, being foreign-born, TB in the individual's own history and previous positive TST results. No statistically significant association with gender, BCG vaccination, workplace or profession was found.

The information provided are important. However it would be important to have the manuscript being reviewed by an English mother tongue person. Moreover other issues to consider are:

MAJOR:
1) PAGE 2: Conclusions are not correct. In this HCW population, migration (OR:1.99) is not an important risk factor for LTBI and therefore should be removed from the conclusions.
2) Page 3: please provide in the text the numbers of TB incidence in Germany
3) Include an additional reference that describe HCW in Italy [Girardi et al, Estimating diagnostic accuracy of tests for latent tuberculosis infection without a gold standard among healthcare workers. Euro Surveill. 2009 Oct 29;14(43)] and comment on it in the discussion
4) Page 5: specify that “the test was considered positive if IFN-g in the tube containing the M. tuberculosis antigen was…”
5) Page 6: last 2 sentences must go in the result section, at the beginning. Moreover, please add a figure 1 with a flow chart of the study population.
6) Page 13: third row. Rewrite :“In a recent review”.

MINOR
1) Page 2: spelling of OSH
2) Once provided the abbreviation IGRA, use it when needed, i.e. at page 3

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.