Reviewer’s report

Title: Mortality among patients with tuberculosis requiring intensive care: a retrospective cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 22 September 2009

Reviewer: Thambu Sudarsanam

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Comments on the Manuscript-Dr Thambu David

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes the manuscript has a well defined question

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The retrospective cohort is not the ideal method but may be all the data that is available. The authors need to elaborate on how many outpatients the hospital sees per year and how many inpatients. How many in each have TB-that would give the reader a sense of the denominator that they are dealing with.

3. Are the data sound?
   The study had 44 non survivors and they have included ~12 variables in the multivariate analysis and also adjusted for age and sex. This is NOT methodologically sound. Also the major part of the discussion relates to the univariate analysis and some of this data is clearly due to small sample size-increased mortality in patients with rifampicin. This has lead to long explanations trying to explain these findings which I think need to be deleted or considerably shortened. While the authors need to be commended on being the first in Brazil to do this study, I feel that the contribution of the study is more in the description of the types of cases and the outcomes rather than the analysis of risk factors for mortality.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   I would refer to my comments in question 3

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'