Reviewer's report

Title: The QuantiFERON-TB Gold test in the diagnosis and treatment of latent tuberculosis in patients from a Norwegian outpatient clinic

Version: 1 Date: 2 November 2009

Reviewer: Ingunn Harstad

Reviewer's report:

General comments
This is an interesting and extensive paper with many interesting results. Longitudinal data for QFT has been demanded, and studies on effect of treatment of latent TB on QFT results in particular. The results are even more interesting because the testing has been done in a normal clinical setting. Some uncertainty remains about the methods and results of the epidemiological analysis.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1: Methods /Results: In the description of statistical methods and multivariable logistic regression, nothing about checking variables for interactions and correlations is mentioned. This needs to be checked and clearly stated and the results of the check mentioned.

2: Methods: How was the questionnaire presented for people of different language back grounds? Was e.g the questionnaire translated to different languages on paper, or did a translator translate from a Norwegian questionnaire and ask the question to the patients?

Minor Essential Revisions
1: In the methods part some information about who was selected for the study is needed. Were everybody with the actual inclusion criteria asked? And corresponding in the results part, how many gave informed consent and how many refused? If possible, some information about those that refused could also be helpful.

2: Results of the logistic regression analysis should be reported both in the abstract and the main paper with odds ratios and confidence intervals, not with p-values.

3: A separate paragraph with limitations of the study should be added.

4: English translations of the titles in Reference 7 and 22 should be added.

Discretionary revisions
1: As latent TB prevalence but also new infection is supposed to be different in different age groups, age could be split into age groups (e.g 0-14, 15-29--) in the logistic regression model to check if this gives an association to QFT results.
2: If one or two words to indicate that longitudinal measures of QFT have been done were added to the head line, this would give more information about the content of the paper and might increase the interest for the paper.

3: Among the untreated, who were repeatedly tested? And how was the selection?

4: Some description of characteristics of the treatment group could be added.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.