Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the rebuttal letter for the manuscript “MS: 2112200388434367 Detection of Pulmonary tuberculosis: comparing MR imaging with HRCT” by Elisa BUSI RIZZI, et al, submitted to BMC ID.

Please see below for the answers to the referees.

Reviewer’s report
Title: Detection of Pulmonary tuberculosis: comparing MR imaging with HRCT”
Version: 2 Date: 6 May 2011
Reviewer: Alberto Villanueva

Reviewer’s report:
A.- Major Compulsory Revisions (with proposed solutions)
The discussion and conclusions are not well balanced and adequately supported by the data. There are two sentences that the authors must not include in the article. We include both sentences below (1 and 2).

If the authors agree with the proposes we do them in our opinion the article can be accepted.

1.- Abstract:
Some conclusions are not closely related to material and methods and results. The following sentence can be included in the discussion, nevertheless it can not be included in abstract’s conclusion: “MRI can be used as a harmless imaging
alternative for some subgroups of patients (children, fertile women, during pregnancy, as an alternative to CT for patients with allergies to IV contrast material) and for follow-up studies. Furthermore, we consider MRI to be a promising diagnostic tool for screening active TB in selected populations. It could be concluded that: There are no significant differences between HRCT and MRI in terms of identification of lung lesions in non AIDS patients with non miliary pulmonary tuberculosis”

ANSWER. We modified accordingly.

2.- Manuscript
We really think it can be interesting to demonstrate if the findings on Chest-X-Ray add something or not to MRI in the follow-up of patients with TB. However we think it can not be concluded that “based on the evidence produced in this study we believe that chest X-rays and MRI could be the most appropriate radiological procedures for managing pulmonary TB”

ANSWER. We modified accordingly.

Reviewer’s report 2
Reviewer's report:
This manuscript can be accepted for publication. It still needs to be edited by a native speaker.

ANSWER. We modified accordingly to the suggestions of an English assistant.

Moreover we modified the title to read “Detection of Pulmonary tuberculosis: comparing MR imaging with HRCT”, following the suggestion of our editing assistant.

I thank you for the valuable time you devoted to this manuscript and for the accurate comments that improved the quality of the text. I hope that the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication in the BMC ID Journal.

On behalf of all co-authors

Best regards,

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