Reviewer's report

Title: High prevalence of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in African children in a setting of high HIV prevalence

Version: 2 Date: 25 October 2010

Reviewer: Beate Kampmann

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This paper describes in some detail the presentation and outcome of children with MDR-TB in 2 hospital settings in Johannesburg, South Africa. The manuscript is clear in its messages and needs little change.

I completely agree with the 2 main conclusions.

I suggest the following minor essential revisions:

- have a look if BMI/z scores correlated with MDR and outcome
- do you have the nutritional/weight information for the non-MDR TB group? It is missing from the table.
- the tables 3 and 4 are redundant, as you have already described the info fully in the text- you could shorten here
- the Figure 1 would look clearer if you could do a diagram with boxes rather than just arrows, as the different outcomes are not visually very well delineated
- the role of ART is not well explored in this manuscript. It looks as if despite ART, no one had viral suppression? Please add some detail to let the reader appreciate if there was a difference between MDR/ not MDR between HIV-infected children on ART at the time of diagnosis and also subsequently.
- not enough comment on the paucity of contact history- this is unusual. How active was the contact tracing carried out?
- what was the relationship between age and MDR/non-MDR? there are data in the table, but not in the text.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.