Reviewer’s report

Title: Fiberoptic bronchoscopy for the rapid diagnosis of smear-negative pulmonary tuberculosis

Version: 2 Date: 12 May 2012

Reviewer: Pyng Lee

Reviewer’s report:

My only comment:
Given the results, some recommendations should be proposed:
Radiological and clinical suspicion
Sputum no of samples role of induction
Hrct and contrast ct as hrct is not good to assess for mediastinal lymph nodes and there were some patients with lung cancer. Also tbna conventional or Ebus for enlarged mediastinal ln should be explored as yield is reportedly good.
Fob: washing and biopsy: endobronchial or transbronchial to achieve rapid diagnosis
If all negative no treatment if any positive start treatment
Do the authors Avoid excessive costs by refraining TST, TB spot, quantiferon tests, etc
Advise infectious disease experts to refer to pulmonologist for fob following hrct.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

None