Reviewer's report

Title: Early versus delayed initiation of antiretroviral therapy for Indian HIV-infected individuals with tuberculosis on antituberculosis treatment

Version: 4 Date: 16 March 2012

Reviewer: Srikanth P Tripathy

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Randomization method utilised for this study needs to be mentioned.
2. The authors have included MDR TB in the exclusion criteria. It is not clear how the authors have screened for MDR TB before enrolling subjects in the study.
3. Six patients in the early ART arm and 4 patients in the delayed ART arm died. A further 6 patients in the early ART arm were lost to follow up. The significance of the subjects lost to follow up needs to be discussed. Is it possible that all these subjects could have died during treatment or were they transferred out to another clinic?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The ELISA kits used for HIV detection and the kits used for confirmation of HIV infection needs to be mention in the manuscript.
2. Some of the sentences start with the word Also. These sentences could be revised to replace the word “Also” with a better term like “In addition”.

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

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

**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