Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors of latent tuberculosis among asylum seekers in Switzerland: A cross-sectional study in Vaud County.

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Reviewer: Ingunn Harstad

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Risk factors of latent tuberculosis among asylum seekers in Switzerland: A cross-sectional study in Vaud County

This is an interesting study to find factors associated with latent TB in a population of asylum seekers.

Altogether the study question is clear and the method is well chosen, the results are clearly described and analyzed. But there is some extra information that would improve the study, some phrases that should be changed and some limitations added.

Major revisions

1.1: The phrase “risk factor” is used throughout the manuscript where a better phrase would be “factors associated with”. Particularly to call “cough” a risk factor for LTBI is not correct. Rewrite/rethink the phrasing throughout the manuscript.

Methods, page 7: “all asylum seekers with positive T.SPOT.TB without symptoms—“ but asylum seekers with cough are included and they are not without symptoms. This must be changed.

1.2: Methods/results: the study group was volunteers, thus only 393 of 639 (61%) were screened. Generalization of the results could therefore be a problem. I suggest adding some information about the 39% that were not included in the study, at least information about country of origin, sex and age to see if they are comparable to the study group.

Minor revisions

2.1: Background p4: “not influenced by—contact with non-tuberculous mycobacteria”, IGRAS are influenced but to a lower degree than TSTs by some non-tuberculous mycobacteria. This must be rewritten.

2.2: Limitations of the study: Some discussion about the low number studied and that only 61% were included should be added and whether the results can apply to other groups of asylum seekers. There were some selection done because only volunteers were included, they might have higher education/social status than the others?

Discretionary revisions

3.1: Background, p3: “asymptomatic are transferred in a local center”, in changed to
3.2: Methods p 6: “for those AS who did not understood”. Corrected to understand.

3.3: Discussion p 10; last paragraph: if this is describing the study population it would be better to say: ”Switzerland border and who coughed, were mostly”, but if it is a general statement then the present tense is OK.

3.4: Discussion: married individuals and risk for infection, there are some studied that have shown that unmarried individuals have higher risk of TB disease, may be because of other problems and association that are higher among unmarried individuals. (Int J Epidemiology 2005; 34:914-23), but most studies do not study infection but disease.

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.