Reviewer's report

Title: High background rates of positive tuberculosis-specific interferon-gamma release assays in a low prevalence region of UK: a surveillance study

Version: 1 Date: 28 August 2012

Reviewer: alessandro sanduzzi

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minor revisions:
please, explain more widely the role of steroids in determining the positivity of IGRA results, in page 5, line 14.
methods must appear before paragraph of results
conclusions should be wider
finally, among the references, it’s useful to include the paper:
"Prevention of tuberculosis in patients taking tumor necrosis factor-alpha blockers."
by Bellofiore B, Matarese A, Balato N, Gaudiello F, Scarpa R, Atteno M, Bocchino M, Sanduzzi A.
J Rheumatol Suppl. 2009 Aug;83:76-7, talking about the unexposed patients, as a possible role of immunosuppression caused by tumor necrosis factor-alpha blockers.

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'