Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of Microscopic Observation Drug Susceptibility assay for diagnosis of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Viet Nam

Version: 2 Date: 13 September 2011

Reviewer: Ruth McNerney

Reviewer's report:

This article discusses a low cost method of screening for TB drug resistance. It is a topic of public health importance. The article is well written. However, it would be helpful for the referees if pages were numbered, and even more helpful to have line numbers. There are a few typographical errors which should be rectified.

Major compulsory revisions

The conclusion in the abstract and the text should be modified to better reflect the results which suggest low predictive values for the method under study (MODS).

Results:

The actual number of each MOTTS species should be recorded.

MODS data on MOTTS was excluded from the analysis. It is important that this data is included as it is a potential source of false positive results.

Discussion:

The authors should discuss the clinical significance of low levels of resistance to INH.

The authors have not discussed other rapid culture systems such as thin layer agar which is a serious omission.

Minor revisions

For the results in the abstract CI could be provided rather than the numbers found/tested.

Introduction:

The first sentence should be rephrased. The worldwide occurrence of MDR-TB has been documented, rather than there has been worldwide documentation.

The comments on the GeneXpert test should be expanded. The test is called Xpert MTB/RIF. It has been evaluated in many settings, and in some has been
shown to give false positive RIF results.

Viet Nam (with a space) is used in the text but not in the title.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests