Reviewer's report

**Title:** Asymptomatic primary tuberculous pleurisy with intense 18-fluorodeoxyglucose uptake mimicking malignant mesothelioma

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 23 November 2012

**Reviewer:** Jason Stout

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript describes a case report of a patient with presumed tuberculous pleurisy, demonstrating that 18-FDG PET scan uptake decreased with treatment. The case report is straightforward, and the images are interesting. The fact that 18-FDG PET scans light up at sites of tuberculosis disease and that the intensity of uptake decreases with treatment has been well-described previously (e.g. Martinez V. et al, International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease 2012; 16: 1180), so I'm not sure how much of a contribution to the literature is represented by this case report. It would be greatly enhanced by a more extensive review of the utility of PET-CT in diagnosis and management of tuberculosis.

**Major compulsory revision**

1. The reading of a tuberculin skin test should be described by a single measurement (the transverse diameter of induration on the forearm), not a two-dimensional measurement--please correct this.

2. While the diagnosis of tuberculosis is highly likely in this case, no positive culture was obtained. The authors should explicitly address this point.

3. The manuscript would benefit from a more extensive literature review to discuss the role of PET-CT in diagnosis of tuberculosis and evaluation of treatment efficacy. The paper mentioned above by Martinez and others (e.g. Via LE et al, Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy 2012; 56: 4391) are two examples that come immediately to mind.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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.