Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of genotyping based clustering to quantify recent tuberculosis transmission in Guadeloupe during a seven years period: analysis of risk factors and access to health care

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2013

Reviewer: Catherine Arnold

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Minor Essential Revisions

The authors have carried out a reasonably large study on Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains in Guadeloupe over a number of years and have analysed both epidemiological and molecular data. The molecular methods have evolved considerably during the study period and the authors have adapted the study to accommodate this. The conclusions are sound.

This study could be improved by being more concise as it is sometimes difficult to follow the results section.

The report is well written but somewhat long and seemed to be over analysed in places.

Specifically:

1. The word 'Precariousness' is not commonly used in English and a suitable alternative should be used.
2. Table 1: there is no indication of what the figures are in brackets, i.e. need to specify percentages.
3. There is no mention of the 24-loci scheme in use in the UK and of this study in relation to the use of Next Generation Sequencing for the ultimate resolution of related strains and how whole genome sequencing will affect the use of this type of marker. Personally I feel that they will still be relevant in some contexts and situations but perhaps the number of loci studied would need to be increased.

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