Reviewer's report

Title: Factors affecting pleural fluid adenosine deaminase level and the implication on the diagnosis of tuberculous pleural effusion: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 22 July 2013

Reviewer: Haruki Komatsu

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Tay et al. reported that there was a negative correlation between pleural ADA levels and age in TB and other diseases Moreover, the ADA cut off values for the diagnosis of TB was proposed in this study.

Major revisions

I am very confused. Was a significant negative correlation between pleural ADA levels and age was found in diseases including TB? Or was a significant correlation was found in TB excluding other disease? Which was indicated in the conclusion? A p value of the correlation between pleural ADA levels and age in TB (n=80) was significant (0.001) but a R value was weak (-0.281). The authors should clarify this point.

Might be better that the subjects were divided into two groups (TB and non-TB)? Then the author should evaluate the relations between the ADA levels and other factors.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.