Reviewer's report

Title: IgG, IgM and IgA antibodies against the novel polyproteins in active tuberculosis

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Reviewer: Beenu Joshi

Reviewer's report:

In the study "IgG, IgM and IgA antibodies against the novel polyproteins in active tuberculosis" by Feng X et al an antibodies against polyproteins 38F-64F has been detected in pulmonary TB patients before and after therapy. Paper is well written, However there are certain querries.

Authors have not quoted paper by Uma Devi KR et al Specific and early detection of IgG Iga & IgM antibodies to m.tuberculosis 38kda antigen in pulmonary tuberculosis. 2001 81: 249-53. these authors reported 100% specificity when IgG, IgM, IgA were taken individually and there was no change when these responses were clubbed together. however in the present study specificity of 94.7% for IgG, IgM 92.6% and IgA 95.7% was noted and by combination the specificity reduced to 91.5%. What is the explanation of authors for this discrepancy and how this test would be suitable with low specificity.

IgM is a primary response and should decrease after therapy which is not noted in the present study. Authors are requested to explain the same. In leprosy also decrease in IgM antibody response after chemotherapy has been reported.

Minor revision

Discussion

Page no.3 3rd para iostype is written it should be isotype
last para - Therefore the polyprotein may be not suitable should be may not be suitable

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 declare that i have no competing interests