Reviewer's report

Title: Pulmonary Tuberculous: Symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. 19-year experience in a third level pediatric hospital

Version: 3 Date: 27 March 2014

Reviewer: pierre goussard

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. The abstract Combe + is used, this needs to be written out
2. The methods in the abstract does not state the age of the children, who was included
3. ZN dying is used in abstract, rather use ZN staining
4. Abstract report 57 is ZN dyeing positive; the table is 45 in general ZN positive. This is confusing. Does the 57 mean Zn and or culture positive? How many is both positive then?
5. AFB was positive in 54% but in table ZN positive is in the general group in 51.7%
6. Conclusion in the abstract use dermatological contact. What does this mean? skin-test?
7. Material and methods: in the case definition ` 2 or more weeks of consolidation without response to antibiotics is used. This is confusing in children pneumonia can take 4 to 6 weeks to radiological clear. 2 weeks as used in this case will be very difficult distinguishing between pneumonia and PTB. Does the authors have a reference for this or has it been validated somewhere else?
8. ZN staining cannot be definite diagnosis as other Mycobacterium will also be ZN positive
9. Culture must be definitive diagnosis
10. 47% had mediastinal lymph nodes. Paratracheal glands without hilar glands are not common in children. The authors must give the detail how many was hilium, para tracheal or subcarinal lymph nodes.
11. The authors compare the yield between sputum and gastric lavage, but children of 18 gastric lavage is not done, so this comparisons only makes sense if you compared if both was done in the same patient.
12. Text state that BCG was slightly meaningful between groups > What does this mean as the p value is reported as < 0.05
13. Discussion the word inespecfic must be change to nonspecific.
14. The conclusion is not based on any data of this article, this can go into the discussion rather
15. Conclude the study finding in the conclusions
16. There is many spelling issues

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

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'