Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiological profile of tuberculosis patients by HIV status in Brazil: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 3 May 2014

Reviewer: Joconiah Chirenda

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Abstract
1. Present key findings only in the abstract so that the message is communicated clearly.

Background/Introduction
1. The authors have rightly confirmed the available literature on TB/HIV but clearly failed to state the gap in knowledge
2. The research question is not well defined or does not come out clearly in this section
3. Objectives are either not clearly stated or unclear

Methods
1. Study design is not appropriate. The authors carried secondary data analysis of a TB cohort from 2007 to 2011 using a comparative cross sectional study and not a cohort study.

Results
1. Table 4. Under treatment outcomes. Suggest the author includes all treatment outcomes used in the reporting of TB treatment outcomes

Discussion
1. Lines 226 to 233 are a repetition of the results. This is not necessary and the authors are encouraged to just discuss the results
2. Not all results are discussed, of key interest include:
   a. The observation that TB/HIV co-infected patients were more likely to be AFB positive than TB patients only. This must be discussed in relation to TB infection prevention and control and the need to develop more sensitive diagnostic techniques to confirm TB among HIV co-infected
3. The authors contradict themselves by stating the huge number of patients without HIV status and at the end say the strength of the study was due to the large sample size. It is also not clear how the stated limitations affected the research question
4. Discuss why the retention in DOT for TB/HIV co-infected patients was poor in
relation to available AIDS and TB treatment models in Brazil. Is there no encouragement for patients on HAART to receive treatment supervision in the community (community model)

Conclusions and Recommendations

a. Conclusion seem to imply that there are specific reasons why HIV related TB remain relatively high in Brazil, but the reasons are not obvious in the article

b. There were no recommendations suggested, based on the significant findings
c. The author must be specific in terms of which targeted interventions are recommended for TB/HIV co-infected populations in Brazil

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Typos on lines 39, 68, 74 and 103 require corrections

2. Use available Microsoft office tools to correct grammar

3. Line 78, the correct terminology is “isoniazid preventive therapy” and not “isoniazid preventive”. Suggest correct

Discretionary Revisions

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