Reviewer's report

Title: Conventional and Molecular Epidemiology of Tuberculosis in Manitoba

Authors:

Kym S Blackwood (kym_blackwood@hc-sc.gc.ca)
Assaad Al-Azem (umalmoua@cc.umanitoba.ca)
Lawrence B Elliott (elliottl@cc.UManitoba.CA)
Earl S Hershfield (ehersh@ccu.umanitoba.ca)
Amin M Kabani (amin_kabani@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Version: 1 Date: 18 Jun 2003

Reviewer: Rabia Hussain

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

This is a very interesting study that describes the dominant presence of a single strain of TB using fingerprint analysis in a province of Canada (Manitoba) in different ethnic and geographic locations. Although the incidence of tuberculosis was known in these groups, the unique aspect of this epidemiological study is the identification of a predominant strain (FP1), its clustering in various groups and the risk factors associated with acquiring this strain. The increased transmission has been clearly demonstrated but the reasons for this increased transmission are speculative and yet to be clarified.

This is a well-designed study and well-documented study. The technical and statistical tools used are appropriate and I would highly recommend this study for publication.

Competing interests:

None declared.