Reviewer's report

Title: Diagnosis of tuberculosis in an Indian population by an indirect ELISA protocol based on detection of Antigen 85 complex: a prospective cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 9 February 2007

Reviewer: Karin Weldingh

Reviewer's report:

General
In the present paper the authors investigate the use an ELISA method for detection of Ag85B for the diagnosis of TB. The use for a simple diagnostic test to supplement the excising bacteriological methods is obvious and the study is highly relevant. In general that paper is well written and the study seems sound.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Page 3: It is written that TST is the only way to determine an asymptomatic infection. This is not correct, as two IFNg release assay for detection of Mtb. infection has been marketed recently which should be mentioned here.
Page 5: Please indicate how much serum (and dilution) was applied on the SDS gels for western blotting.

Discussion:
Page 8: Were the patients really included prospectively or retrospectively? The way it is described in the material and method section it seems as they were included retrospectively? were the analyses performed blinded / double blinded?
Page 8: This study is not a clinical trial so please rephrase that sentence.

Tables: Please merge table 1 and table 2 into one table.

Figure 2: Please indicate the y-axis name

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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