Reviewer's report

Title: Nitric oxide production in the exhaled air of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in relation to HIV co-infection

Version: 1 Date: 5 June 2008

Reviewer: Neil Schluger

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No conclusions at all can be drawn from this study, and as it is purely observational, there does not seem to have been any hypothesis that was tested. The study raises many questions that might be addressed in further investigations, and the authors are encouraged to do so. The study would have greater value if the following questions were addressed:

1. Were the control patients (contacts and blood donors) tested for latent tuberculosis infection?
2. Was the HIV status of all the controls who were included in the study known?
3. Were there changes in exhaled or urine NO during treatment?
4. Were NO levels in controls measured over time?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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