Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of tuberculosis drug resistance in 10 provinces of China

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Reviewer: Wing Wai Wai Yew

Reviewer’s report:

This is basically a very written paper that contains a useful study with important messages. The methodology is appropriate and rather clearly described, except for very minor clarifications needed, as shown below. The discussion is concise and clear, but again a little touch-up would be beneficial, as indicated in the comments following.

Minor essential revisions:

(1) P7 Laboratory quality control. It would be clearer if an explicit statement on its applicability to even county or district mycobacteriology laboratory is included.

(2) P7 Laboratory quality control. Please explain briefly the rationale of retesting a random sample of 10% of the isolates from each province by the NRL of China. Why not more, for example? Also, how was the random sample chosen?

(3) P7 Laboratory quality control. Better say "Before 2002, the serving SRL for China was in Korea,....."

(4) Please check for typographic errors. P9 Results 1st line. Should be "The total number of isolates..."

(5) P9 Results. Multidrug-resistance. Better say "...mean prevalence of combined MDR was 9.3%".

(6) P13 Discussion 3rd paragraph the few sentences "In a well functioning......should be low." would probably require some rephrasing and refinement. Conceptually, the drug resistance rates among newly diagnosed TB patients and patients with previous treatment both reflect the performance of the National TB Programme, the former more on the current status, and the latter more on the situation existing in the past number of years.

(7) P14 Discussion Last paragraph The very long sentence "However, as the sample................after failure)." does not apparently read well. It would be beneficial to rephrase the sentence to enhance clarity of thought.

(8) It might be better to use either "anti-TB drugs" or "TB drugs" uniformly throughout the manuscript.
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 do not have competing interests