Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical and Ultrasonographic Features of Abdominal Tuberculosis in HIV Positive Adults in Zambia

Version: 1 Date: 29 November 2008

Reviewer: S.P. Misra

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The paper evaluates the role of clinical features and ultrasonographic findings for the diagnosis of abdominal tuberculosis in HIV seropositive patients.

Major comments:
The concept of the paper may be fine in a poor country lacking resources. However, to recommend starting of antituberculous drugs on the basis of clinical and ultrasonographic findings, may be a bit hazardous. Many patients may have some other disease and a confirmation of the diagnosis or at least attempts to rule out any other sinister disease should be made.

Other comments:
1. The sample size is too small to make such a recommendation.
2. Please define sever diarrhea and what is meant by “laparoscopy was consistent with TB.”
3. The colonoscopic finding that were suggestive of TB should be mentioned in the Methods section.
4. At laparoscopy if the findings were suggestive of TB, the patients received anti-tuberculous drugs. Was the same approach followed for colonoscopy?

Recommendation: Reject

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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