Reviewer’s report

Title: Sensitivity of direct versus concentrated sputum smear microscopy in HIV-infected patients suspected of having pulmonary tuberculosis

Version: 3 Date: 7 March 2009

Reviewer: Maryline Bonnet

Reviewer’s report:

I thank the authors for their response to my comments and I agree with their revision of the manuscript.

Nevertheless, I would suggest to add one sentence in the discussion part to explain the discrepancy between positive concentrated smear results and negative direct smear results in culture positive patients.

I agree with the authors that it was important to compare their study results with studies in HIV infected patients but I would suggest that their also compare the results with studies, which evaluated specimen concentration method in hospitalized patients.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests