Reviewer's report

Title: Time Delays in Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis: A Systematic Review of Literature

Version: 2 Date: 16 April 2009

Reviewer: Alan Altraja

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript "Time Delays in Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis: A Systematic Review of Literature" by Chandrashekhar T Sreeramareddy et al. has been substantially revised with providing additional data and data analysis. Some revisions still remain to be completed:

1. On page 7, 1st paragraph, second last sentence: "This was not different when analysed separately for LMICs and HICs.": please provide p value.
2. On page 7, 2nd paragraph: just omit last sentence in this paragraph, but just give p-value and reference to figure 3a.
3. Figure 2 (flow chart of inclusion of papers into the analysis): from box 5 ("360 studies...") just draw arrow to the right and add an additional box to indicate the fate of the 262 studies that were not included. This makes the figure more self-explanatory and eliminates the need for referral to the text.

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

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.