Reviewer’s report

Title: High incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in children admitted with severe pneumonia in Uganda

Version: 3 Date: 22 November 2012

Reviewer: Stephen Graham

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Minor essential revisions
1. Use “tuberculosis” or shorten it to “TB” once at beginning of manuscript and use TB thereafter, rather than interchanging as it is at moment.
2. Background – lines 8-10 – “TB is one of the leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally across all age groups” and then refers to a paper from almost 20 years ago. I think that if a statement referring to TB as a leading cause including in children, then need more current reference that provides evidence for children. It may be true but needs stronger reference.
3. Be careful to assume that infants with TB do not require antibiotics as well when they present as acute pneumonia as there is evidence from clinical and autopsy studies – and indirect evidence from vaccine probe studies (Moore DA et al PIDJ) – that bacteria especially pneumococcus can be an important co-infection with TB in children.

Discretionary revisions
4. Would it be possible to add another table simply listing the relevant characteristics of those 17 cases with confirmed culture-positive TB? I believe that this would add useful information. Could also add column for those with culture-negative TB and compare. Such data would provide important feedback to assist with improving clinical definitions.
5. Are there data of the day (range) following admission that TB treatment was commenced in those with TB? Could duration of hospitalisation be added and in-hospital case fatality rate be added to Table 2 for comparison between TB and Not TB? These data would be very informative and relevant.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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'