Reviewer's report

Title: Tuberculosis lymphadenitis in Southwest Ethiopia: a community based cross sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 9 April 2012

Reviewer: Subhash Chandir

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. What is the age of majority in Ethiopia? How were >15 years old defined as adults? Please consider using the appropriate terms rather than labeling all >15 years as adults.
2. In line 60, please provide total number of TB cases in Ethiopia.
3. Why data from entire 1 Kebele was was incomplete? Can you please explain the bias it may have introduced.
4. Further information should be provided on consent procedures eg was consent taken from 30,040 adults before administering questionnaire. Furthermore number approached and refusals should also be documented.
5. The study describes limitation in terms of transport of specimen for culture but methods section does not describe the transport system and any potential issues. This is important as it would help readers decide if this led to any underestimation of rates.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Following edits in can help improve tables for better understanding:
a. Add ‘n’
b. Alignment of numbers
2. Line 221 should correct the duplication of word “tried”.
3. Please give Confidence intervals as range eg “35.7-94.2” rather than “35.7, 94.2”.
4. The data for the study is not definitive (based on study design and number of cases) , therefore please replace the word “essential” in conclusion with “recommended”.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Please provide the statistics for EPTB prevalence in line 167.

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 any competing interests.