Reviewer's report

Title: TB treatment outcomes among TB-HIV co-infections in Karnataka, India: how do these compare with non-HIV tuberculosis outcomes in the province?

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Reviewer: Kwonjune Seung

Reviewer's report:

1. In Table 2, you say that many of the patients in column 1 are also counted in column 2. This means that Table 2 is not a comparison of treatment outcomes of patients with HIV TB co-infection and TB. If it is impossible to remove the double-counted patients, I recommend removing Table 2 altogether and focus on the comparison between Not on ART and On ART.

2. Please explain about the integration of HIV and TB services in the Methods section.
   a. If an ART clinic diagnoses TB in an HIV-positive patient, does the clinic refer the patient to a TB clinic for TB treatment? Or does the ART clinic provide TB treatment?
   b. If a primary health clinic diagnoses HIV in a TB patient, does the clinic refer that patient to a nearby ART clinic? If so, which clinic provides the TB treatment?

3. A major component of HIV/TB integration is HIV testing of TB patients.
   a. Please explain if there is a policy of HIV testing of TB patients. If so, when was it implemented? How successful is it?
   b. Please include in the Results: What percentage of the 51966 TB patients 1-Apr-2010 to 31 Dec 2011 were tested for HIV?

4. A comparison of the baseline characteristics of patients "Not on ART" and "On ART" may be useful.

5. If the CD4 count is not from the beginning of TB treatment, this explanation needs to be included in the manuscript, in the Methods or Discussion section.

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

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.