Reviewer's report

Title: Empirical treatment for tuberculosis in HIV: lessons from a cohort study of people living with HIV treated in two referral centers in Recife, Brazil

Version: 2 Date: 7 December 2013

Reviewer: Mohamed Janabi

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Citations of the references should be uniform the authors have used (i) the [ ] (ii) superscript see page 4.
2. Can the authors explain in their discussion the reason for starting ant-TB 6 months after the patient had complaint.
3. Were the physician blinded in about the study? If yes/no how could it affect the results?
4. Can the authors state which anti-TB were used in this study Rifampicin based? and Which HAART was used EFV based because this could bring a different discussion all together.
4. Authors view were patients having a Probable TB? or Confirmed TB needs to be mentioned.

Major Compulsory
1. The study had two centers as shown in the title but the results don't pot ray that where the findings same or similar at the two sites? For instance Is the decision to start anti TB same at the two sites, mortality.
2. This is an observation study can it really answer the impact of an intervention e.g. imperical starting of anti-TB?
3. Are the authors aware of IRIS (Immune reconstitution syndrome) interesting! Could all the results see are do to IRIS which the authors have completely ignored to discuss!
4. Can the authors clearly discuss in the discussion section the mortality seen why attribute it to anti-TB and not the anemia(41% of study subjects), low CD4 below 200, OIs?

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 below.