Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes and tuberculosis: the impact of the diabetes epidemic on tuberculosis incidence

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Reviewer: William H Herman

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In this report, Stevenson and colleagues construct an epidemiologic model using data on tuberculosis incidence, diabetes prevalence, population structure, and relative risk of tuberculosis associated with diabetes in order to evaluate the contribution made by diabetes to tuberculosis incidence and to urban and rural differences in tuberculosis incidence. They find that diabetes accounts for approximately 15% of pulmonary tuberculosis and 20% of smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis and a substantial portion of the excess burden of tuberculosis in urban areas. They conclude that the worldwide epidemic of diabetes may lead to a resurgence of tuberculosis in endemic regions, especially urban areas.

In general, this paper is well formulated, clearly laid out, nicely presented, and important. The background is clear and succinct. The methods are extremely clearly laid out, easy to follow, and appropriate. The results are clearly presented and important. The discussion is appropriate with a clear statement of limitations and strengths and conclusions reasonably drawn from the data presented. The tables and figure are appropriate. I have no suggestions for revisions.

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 declare that I have no competing interests.