Reviewer's report

Title: A systematic review of delay in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis

Version: 3 Date: 5 November 2007

Reviewer: Nelcy Rodríguez

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Even, there is an explanation about how to make the studies included as comparable as possible, authors point out that "we analyzed the trials with the intent to identify differences in approaches, rather than to define a gold standard". This statement means that clinical trials were included in the review. Also on the methods section, there is a subtitle "Trial selection and analysis". It is not clear for me then, why there is a clarification about that the studies included were not clinical trials but epidemiological studies.

For my second point in the previous review, I have a question about randomization.

again, it is not clear why this point is not considered since some clinical trials were considered.

In case that not clinical trials but only observational studies were included, there must be a clear statement about it in the methods section and then a clear description about how these observational studies were selected to be included in the systematic review.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.