Reviewer’s report

Title: Viral hepatitis and HIV-associated tuberculosis: Risk factors and TB treatment outcomes in Thailand

Version: 1 Date: 10 June 2008

Reviewer: Giovanni Rezza

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Major criticisms (compulsory):
I am not sure what is the meaning of identifying factors associated to HBsAg. In fact, only a relatively small proportion of those who become HBV infected will remain HBsAg positive. Thus, factors associated with HBsAg positivity may be either considered risk factors for HBV infection (i.e., exposure) or determinant of chronic HBV disease. This should be carefully considered and either modified in the study design (i.e. repeating the analysis taking into account also other HBV markers) or explained in the text.

Minor points:
In the 'Discussion' section, the authors showed higher rates of death and default among HBsAg+ individuals but this was mainly due to higher default rates and apparently not to higher death rate. Thus, an analysis restricted only to default should be presented. However, the results should better address this issue.

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'