Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers for introducing HIV testing among TB patients in Jogjakarta, Indonesia

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Reviewer: Gavin John G Churchyard

Reviewer’s report:

Summary
This manuscript describes barriers to introducing HIV testing into a TB programme in Indonesia identified through in-depth interviews with TB patients, specialist physicians and district disease control managers and focus groups discussion (FGD) with nurses providing DOTS services. The study found poor knowledge of HIV by nurses and patients, logistical barriers to accessing HIV testing, fear of a positive result, stigma and poor communication skills as barriers to accessing HIV testing.

Major compulsory revisions
None.

Minor essential revisions
• The term “burden” is used for logistical barriers to HIV testing. I suggest using the term “barriers” consistently.

• Methods: if the HIV prevalence among TB patients is know it should be provided in the paragraph describing HIV prevalence in different settings.

• In the methods section it would be useful to describe briefly the VCT process. Are rapid HIV tests used? Explain why patients have to come back the next day for results.

• I suggest providing more detail on how nurses were selected to participate in the FGDs and how many nurses were included in each FGD.

• Results: Greater detail should be provided on the demographics of the TB patients, e.g. median age and range, % (n/N) with secondary education etc.

• Discussion: It should be noted early on that Indonesia is a low HIV prevalence setting.

• The sentence on knowledge of HIV among the general population in the US and pregnant women in Hong Kong being predictive of HIV testing is unclear. I assume what is meant is that poor knowledge of HIV is associated with poor uptake of VCT.

• I suggest adding to the conclusion that the logistical barriers to VCT can be overcome by offering HIV testing at DOTS sites using rapid HIV tests that can provide results on the same day.
Discretionary revisions
None

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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