Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 27 July 2008

Reviewer: Douglas Wilson

Reviewer's report:

Comment:
This study evaluates barriers to HIV testing in TB patients in Jogjakarta province, Java. This is highly relevant as knowledge of HIV status is an essential component of HIV public health control programmes. The WHO’s DOTS programme has not succeeded in containing the TB epidemic in high HIV prevalence countries, and data from this study could inform prevention programmes.

However, the data presented consists largely of selected qualitative responses from participants of the in-depth interview. There is almost no quantitative data to put the important responses elicited in perspective.

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

Suggested revisions:
1/ Important data that would put the responses in context:
   # Number of TB patients approached
   # Number offered VCT
   # Number and percentage who accepted
   # Of those who accepted VCT the number who completed the in-depth interview
   # Of those who completed the interview what percentage were HIV sero-positive, and what was the distribution of age, gender and social status?

2/ How were the individuals selected for the in-depth interview?

3/ Of those who responded to the in-depth interview:
   # Were recurring themes identified, and in what percentage of participants?

4/ The authors mention that the study was conducted as part of a larger HIV prevalence survey in TB patients - it would be helpful to first publish this study to put the present study in context.

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)
None

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

None

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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'