Reviewer's report

Title: Sputum microscopy for the diagnosis of HIV-associated pulmonary tuberculosis in Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 16 January 2008

Reviewer: Ruth McNerney

Reviewer's report:

Major/minor revisions - none

This is an interesting article worthy of publication in this Journal.

Discretionary revision

Eligibility for the study required a CD4 count >200, a BCG scar, and no evidence of active TB. Thus the population tested may have had different characteristics to those of a general population of HIV positive individuals. A comment could be added to this effect as the performance of the test might differ in a routine active screening programme where the recruitment criteria used during this study were not applied.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance 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