Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 16 January 2008

Reviewer: Dick Menzies

Reviewer's report:

Please number your comments and divide them into

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  NONE.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  TABLE 4 NEEDS A LITTLE WORK -
  IF SMEAR WAS "3 AFBs" SHOULD BE "3AFB/100 FIELDS"
  THERE SHOULD BE 5 ON TREATMENT - FROM TEXT, BUT I SEE ONLY PATIENTS #
  3,5 AND 7. PLEASE CLARIFY
  2 PATIENTS AND ABDO TB - WERE THE SPECIMENS ASCITES OR SPUTUM? MAKES A
  DIFFERENCE IN DEBATE OVER NUMBE ROF SPUTUM SAMPLES AND YEILD - CLARIFY
  IF ALL SAMPLES ARE SPUTUM

- Discretionary Revisions
  NONE

What next?

Based on your assessment of the validity of the manuscript, what do you advise should be the next step?

- Accept after minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)
Level of interest
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- An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
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- Acceptable

Statistical review
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- No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests
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'I declare that I have no competing interests'