Reviewer’s report

Title: Tuberculosis recurrence and mortality rates in successfully treated tuberculosis patients in southern Ethiopia: retrospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2009

Reviewer: Donald A Enarson

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. It would appear from peripheral comments that the treatment given was 8-months’ duration. However, the actually treatment applied is never specified. 
2. Clearly a major co-variate in this setting is HIV infection but this was not measured in the patients.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Introduction, para 2: The authors state that ‘DOTS has improved treatment success’. However, Cochrane reviews indicate that there is not sufficient evidence to attribute this improvement to DOTS per se.
2. Introduction, para 3: The authors state that ‘there are only a few follow up study’. There are, indeed, more than those quoted, not even taking into account clinical trials that always have follow up.
3. Study Design: It is not stated if this study included only patients who had previously not been treated (so-called ‘new’ cases) or if it included all cases (including retreatment cases).

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

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.