Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment outcome of tuberculosis patients in northwest Ethiopia. A five-year retrospective study.

Version: 1 Date: 27 July 2009

Reviewer: Mark Cotton

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory Revisions:
HIV should be addressed as is a major co-factor.
Where CI crosses "1", findings should be described as "trends", rather than definitive statements

Minor essential Revisions:
For the diagnosis of TB, lack of culture facilities should already be integrated into the definitions of TB (page 6 and 7). For assessing treatment, does "negative bacteriology" mean "smear negative"? If so, this should be stated.

Discretionary:
The site and region are mentioned 5 times (once in the introduction should be sufficient)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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