Reviewer's report

Title: Health care seeking among tuberculosis suspects and pulmonary TB patients in rural Ethiopia: a community-based study

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Reviewer: chris kenyon

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Congratulations on a useful and informative piece of research. I would recommend a few changes.

Discretionary Revisions

1. We are told that 50% of the 40 persons diagnosed with TB in the study had approached health facilities, but not how many of these were diagnosed as having TB when they made these visits. What are the differences between those who were previously diagnosed with TB and those not on visits to the clinics. eg. Were they more likely to have visited the facilities which do not offer a smear service?

2. How many were on treatment for TB.

3. Is there an association between the length of cough of those diagnosed with TB and cough in other household members

4. pg 4 you mean TB incidence of 189/100000 not prevalence surely?

5. sentence 3 of results section is confusing

6. Drop the word "with" after women in following sentence: When taking only medical health providers visit as an outcome variable, our analysis showed that women with (AOR 0.8, 95% CI 0.6, 0.9) were found to be less likely to visit a medical health provider than men.

7. Is it 42 or 48% : the following sentences contradict one another In this study 402 participants (40% of all TB suspects in the study) including 17 (42.5%) confirmed PTB cases did not consult medical health provider for their symptoms vs. In this study, 40% of the TB suspects and 48% of the PTB cases had not visited medical providers at the time of the survey

7. "Our findings are higher than the Korean and more or less similar with the results reported from India." this should be changed to :"Our findings are higher than the Korean and similar to the results reported from India"
8. table 3 needs * next to p<0.05

Minor Essential Revisions

The study needs to list the limitations eg given a relatively high HIV prevalence a high proportion of those with TB will be smear negative and hence missed by a diagnosis algorithm which is limited to 3 smears. There may be significant misclassification between the PTB group and the people with PTB symptoms

**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