Reviewer's report

Title: Different screening strategies (single or dual) for the diagnosis of suspected latent tuberculosis: a cost analysis

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Reviewer: laurent P Nicod

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This is an interesting model trying to improve the reasoning of detecting latent tb using either skin test or new IGRAs testings either alone or combined. They take into account the costs of an active tb prevented or not in the first two years post primary infection, the cost of hepatitis induced by the Isoniazide. This is well discussed and the reasoning take major important points into account.

Major comment:

-Most experts think that the risk of active TB will be at least as great in the rest of life than during the initial first two years after a primo-infection. This should be considered as this might improve the balance toward a sensitive test compared to a less sensitive one.

-Rifampicine is a more efficient, shorter to apply and probably safer prophylaxis than Isoniazide. This should be evaluated to really bring perhaps some real improvement in this field. The higher price is likely offset by the improved observance, the lower hepatitis rate, and the fewer late reactivation of tuberculosis.

Discretionary revisions:

-The authors should try to display with a graph the costs comparing TST and one or the other combined therapy to improved the comprehension of their reasoning in function at least of the sensitivity and specificity of the tests.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'