Reviewer's report

Title: Retrospective observational study of diagnostic accuracy of the Xpert(R) MTB/RIF assay on fiberoptic bronchoscopy sampling, for early diagnosis of smear-negative or sputum-scarce patients with suspected tuberculosis

Version: 3
Date: 21 May 2014

Reviewer: Keshav Sharma

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

While adding to the information to what is know already in the field, as the authors pointed out this a retrospective look and prospective analysis should not be undertaken.

It is all interesting to note that of the total 162 'suspected' pulmonary TB only a small percentage 18.5 did this turn out to be the case which leads to think that maybe the assessment initially should have been more stringent. The Final diagnosis could have been broken down to :-

Mycobacterial TB
Non TB Mycobacterium
lung cancer
non mycobacterium infection
other

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