Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of same day diagnostic tools including Gene Xpert and unstimulated IFN-g for the evaluation of pleural tuberculosis: a prospective cohort study.

Version: 2 Date: 21 January 2014

Reviewer: Gaetano Caramori

Reviewer's report:

General comments
The topic is clinically relevant. The diagnosis of pleural TB is challenging due to the paucibacillarity nature of the biological samples as discussed by the authors in the introduction. Because of this, to find methods that facilitate the diagnosis of this clinical manifestation of TB is important. The data are interesting and well presented.

Major Compulsory Revisions
It would be interesting to analyze the costs / benefits ratio of the different techniques. Some methods may be more effective but also more expensive particularly in the less affluent countries where pleural TB is also more common.

This aspect could be analysed considering not only ADA, IFN# and Xpert MTB/RIF assay, but also the role of classical approaches like pleural biopsy, pleural fluid analysis and thoracoscopy.

-The author says that Xpert MTB/RIF assay is also useful to provide information about rifampicin susceptibility: in your opinion is this an important issue that could make Xpert/MTB/RIF assay a test with a significant burden in the prognosis of pleural TB?

Discretionary Revisions
Page 13, line 11: why the word “Although” has A in capital letter? Do the previous phrase need a dot?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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