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: 6 February 2014

Reviewer: SK Sharma

Reviewer's report:

The study seems to be interesting. The idea and the concept are nice and further studies can be designed to validate it in a large number of samples. However, there are some points which need to be taken into consideration.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. IFN Gamma higher levels in TB Patients might be due to the reason that out of 40 TB positive patients 20 were vaccinated by BCG.
2. The author should be discussing the IFN gamma results with the BCG vaccinated patients also.
3. Sample size seems inadequate do decide any technique to be inefficient or efficient. Sample size could have been larger as South Africa is a high TB burden country.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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