Reviewer's report

Title: Hemoptysis, a developing world perspective.

Version: 1  Date: 18 October 2005

Reviewer: Peter Sly

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. No mention is made of appropriate assessment for the presence of tuberculosis or of malignancy. Specific details of the use of Mantoux testing, sputum smears, ZN stains, cytology and bacteriology need to be included.

2. Prevalence of haemoptysis will need to be described in some detail. This is likely to differ at different ages. Special attention needs to be paid to Paediatric cases or a specific statement included about the limiting the study population to adults.

3. The Statistical Analysis plan is inadequate. Please consult an experienced Biostatistician to develop an appropriate analysis plan. For example, ROC curve analyses will almost certainly be required to highlight appropriate diagnostic criteria. Further, the author will need to develop positive and negative predictive values for any proposed diagnostic indices.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare no competing interests