Reviewer’s report

Title: The magnitude and factors responsible for delay in Tuberculosis management in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: A cross sectional study.

Version: 1 Date: 11 May 2008

Reviewer: Elsa Zerbini

Reviewer’s report:

All the observations are “Minor Essential Revisions”

Abstract

It should be said if the “diagnosis delay” is due to health services or not and “which health services”.

Introduction

In line 11: “Fifth ed.”

In line 13: (PTB(+) is not necessary because it is not use again.

In line 21: “et al”

Methods

Selection of DOTS centres and TB patients

Which is the difference between health centres and dispensaries? In some countries are the same. Explain it.

In the second line: erase “in each stratum”. It should be said: “A random selection………………a total of 18 health facilities in the three districts”.

Explain who is considered a “confirmed tuberculosis patient”.

Analysis

Line 12: I think it would be better: “The patient’s self referral……….and the first doctor visit at any health facility”.

Which do you consider a definitive diagnosis? One sputum positive? Two? And if the sputum is negative?. Explain it in methods.

In the last line: delayed treatment. Put it in cursive.

Results

Health seeking behaviour
Line 6: Use the definition. Don’t explain it again. “The mean (SD) patient’s self referral interval….”
The second interval (the time interval between….) isn’t it the same as before? Why? It’s not clear. Please, explain better.
Don’t repeat “the interval”. Use the definitions explain in methods.
Line 16: correct “collected”. It’s better “done”.
Page 9. Line 1. Use the definition. “A time duration…..”. Isn’t it the same as “the health facility referral interval?
Line 9: (199/224)
Acknowledgements
“to participe”
References
Please, check all “:” and “;”. In some parts they are incorrect.
Table 1
In the first line, put: “388 (60.7) 251 (39.9) 639 (100.0)”
The addition of percentages never is exact.
In age: Mean (SD) should not be put. It’s different from the other parameters.
In divorced/separated: 8.9 (57) is incorrect. 57 (8.9)
Table 3
In 1st and 3rd sputum, put >0 days and # 1
Table 4
Where is the value 30? In >30 or <30?
Put 100 nearby: 385 (100.0) 248 (100.0) 633 (100.0)
Commentaries:
The question posed by the authors is well defined. The methods are appropriate and well described. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The writing is acceptable.

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.