Reviewer’s report

**Title:** A Randomized Trial of Multivitamin Supplementation in Children with Tuberculosis in Tanzania

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 28 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Lovett Lawson

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Reviewers’ comments

A randomized Trial of Multivitamin Supplementation in Children with Tuberculosis in Tanzania

This is a very important manuscript especially since it looked at supplementation in children with tuberculosis, a group where studies have been few.

**Abstract**

1. In the results section, since the children were grouped by age, it is important to state (line 18, p3) that the significant improvement in haemoglobin levels at the end of follow-up was at all ages.

2. Also in the result section, the authors should include the results of the effect of supplementation on the primary outcome.

3. A statement should be included in the conclusion to reflect the observation.

**Introduction**

1. Authors should clarify if TB cannot be associated with weight loss and at the same time protein and calorie malnutrition (line 18, p5)

2. Authors should endeavour to mention few more micronutrient supplementation trials in the introduction in a way that more information is given on what is known in the field of micronutrient supplementation.

3. It is important to include information on the level of micronutrient deficiency in the region.

**Method**

1. The statement on line 13, p6, should read “with probable TB infection” as most of the cases are not confirmed TB.

2. The probable number of TB patients was 275. It will help to give some information why only 255 were enrolled.

3. The name and address of the manufacturer of the regimen bottles should be added.

4. The authors should state whether the active regimen and the placebos capsules were identical. My understanding is that the regimen bottles are the ones similar.
5. Line 16, p8 should explain which of the treatment arm or arms received one capsule daily.

6. Indicate if pre and post counselling to the parents/guidance of the patients were done.

Results
1. Having referred to table 1 in the text, except for any significant information in the table, there is no need for repetition in the text.

2. Line 16, p12 should read “both the placebo and the supplement groups………

3. It is obvious that both the placebo and supplement groups had similar weight gain of 0.84 kg as such the next statement is not necessary.

4. The change in triceps skin-fold thickness does not tell me if the change was an increase or a decrease in thickness.

Discussion
1. It should be stated that the improvement in haemoglobin was in all groups (line 5, p15)

2. The beneficial effects of multivitamin supplementation were not shown in this study, as such the statement starting on Line 16 p17 should be modified.