Reviewer’s report

Title: Diagnostic Accuracy of Quantitative PCR (Xpert MTB/RIF) for Tuberculous Pericarditis Compared to Adenosine Deaminase and Unstimulated Interferon-gamma in a High Burden Setting: A Prospective Study

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2014

Reviewer: pierre goussard

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Editor

The authors address interesting and challenging issues in the confirming of the diagnosis of TB pericardial effusions. This is a well thought out and constructed study and well written article.

Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

Major Compulsory Revisions

The limitations of this study may be the high number of HIV positive patients and the significant difference in age in the non tb group. The Xpert sensitivity was higher in HIV-positive compared to HIV-negative patients [74.6% (61.7-84.2) vs. 21.4% (7.6-47.6) The authors must elaborate on this in the discussion. Does this mean is only a valuable test in HIV positive patients. The HIV patients may have a higher load of bacilli than HIV negative patients? Do the authors have any proof of this? Do the authors have any idea what volume of fluid must be used for Xpert? The biggest burden of TB is in the developing world, doing this combination of test may be very expensive and not affordable in most settings. Authors must state the cost of this test.

Minor revisions

There are too many figures and tables.
Table 3 does not add much.

Kind regards
Pierre Goussard

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