Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk factors for latent tuberculosis infection in close contacts of active tuberculosis patients in South Korea: a prospective cohort study

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Reviewer: Paolo Durando

Reviewer’s report:

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Review for BMC Infectious Diseases

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Title: Risk factors for latent tuberculosis infection in close contacts of active tuberculosis patients in South Korea: a prospective cohort study

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The inclusion criteria for study entry of individuals with a previous history of pulmonary TB has been only partially explained: this is a key-point in order to assess both the prevalence of LTBI among the study population and the risk-factors associated with this condition.

No clear criteria were adopted for using TST and/or IGRA tests to obtain a LTBI diagnosis: this remains a limitation of the paper.

Authors state that all the participants of the present survey were enrolled in another international multicenter study: unfortunately no information is available concerning the objectives, the criteria and the methods used in the original protocol.

All the references were properly reported in the text of the manuscript, as requested.

Minor Compulsory Revisions

Page 5 lines 102 – 103 (comments to the first manuscript submitted): further details need to be provided concerning the choice of 5 mm as the cut-off for TST positivity in a population of immunocompetent subjects. Unfortunately, no information is available concerning the criteria and methods used in the original
protocol of the multicenter study.

Page 7 line 164 (comments to the first manuscript submitted): these results are not convincing; please, discuss them in more details in the text.

Discussion

Page 7-8 lines 170 – 172 (comments to the first manuscript submitted): the inclusion criteria for study entry of individuals with a previous history of pulmonary TB has been only partially explained: this is a key-point in order to assess both the prevalence of LTBI among the study population and the risk-factors associated with this condition.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.