Reviewer's report

Title: Bacteriological methods as add on tests to FNA cytology in diagnosis of tuberculous lymphadenitis: Can they reduce the diagnostic dilemma?

Version: 3 Date: 17 July 2014

Reviewer: Martin Dedicoat

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript describes a cross sectional study of the diagnosis of peripheral lymph node tuberculosis in Ethiopia based at a tertiary centre. The manuscript is well written and the data well presented.

Minor essential revisions.
1. Is there any background data on the level on culture confirmation of lymph node TB in Ethiopia
2. Is there any background data on current diagnostic accuracy and outcomes for lymph node TB in Ethiopia?
3. Were any drug resistant cases identified?
4. Most cases of lymph node TB will be diagnosed in remote clinics or district hospitals not a tertiary centre. How can the techniques indentified here be of us if remote settings?
5. Would it be sensible to conclude that the place for FNA is diagnosing pathology other than TB?
6. Is the outcome for the group of patients known and does this differ from the outcome of historical controls?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'