Reviewer's report

Title: Higher Blood Volumes Improve the Sensitivity of Direct PCR Diagnosis of Mycobacteraemia among HIV-AIDS Patients: An Observation Study

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Reviewer: David Holland

Reviewer's report:

The article by Bwanga et al basically compares two blood volumes for detection of MTB in whole blood using PCR. While the methods and conclusion are of some interest, the article needs some work. In general the analysis was appropriate, but the authors could improve the article significantly by consulting with a clinical trials expert for a description of the methods used.

1. Abstract: This needs major reworking, as it is not at all clear from the methods section what was done.

2. It appears that the two "studies" were in fact two convenience samples as part of a QA project. If indeed this is what occurred, it would be fine, but it should be specifically stated. If subjects were, in fact, recruited prospectively for a comparative trial, why were not both methods tested on the same subjects (which would have strengthened the results)?

3. Lines 170-174: Should be in methods

4. Lines 175: Should be in discussion.

5. Line 228: Should be in results

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.