Reviewer's report

Title: Directly Observed Therapy following Tuberculosis treatment regimen change in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: a qualitative study

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Reviewer: Akaninyene - Otu

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This is an interesting article which addresses the applicability of an internationally acceptable practice to an African context where resources are limited. The issues around DOT as a vital component of the DOTS tuberculosis control strategy is examined using qualitative research. It identifies limitations to DOT for the entire treatment duration of 6 months from the perspective of the patients and the healthcare providers. It provides useful insights into the workability of DOTS while citing workable alternatives from an African context.

Major compulsory revisions:

The whole article is riddled with grammatical errors which seriously impede a readers comprehension of the presented facts. There is a need to overhaul the entire article to make it more "user friendly." I have highlighted the areas which should be reviewed while suggesting some corrections (in bold text).

There are also useful examples of efficient community DOT systems from outside of Africa that can be cited. For example, lack of capacity to administer DOT through health care workers in Bangladesh has been addressed by utilizing a non governmental organization called the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC). BRAC has over 70,000 health volunteers and provides community-based TB services in over two-thirds of the country.

The responses from the focus group discussions will have to be substantially edited for them to make any sense to a reader

Minor essential revisions:

The authors use DOT and DOTS interchangeably therefore making their train of thought quite difficult to follow. DOT is the actual process of watching a tuberculosis patient swallow his/her tablets (under supervision). DOTS is the overarching principle which has DOT as a component. This needs to be corrected throughout the article.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

The authors have clearly stated that they have no competing interests.