Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Clinical, Molecular and Drug sensitivity Pattern of Mycobacterial Isolates from extra-pulmonary tuberculosis cases in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 9 December 2014

**Reviewer:** Rumina Hasan

**Reviewer’s report:**

This study sets out to evaluate the genetic diversity, clinical manifestation and drug sensitivity of mycobacterial isolates from extra pulmonary tuberculosis (EPTB) in Addis Ababa. The paper presents a useful analysis of EPTB in Ethiopia. There are however few points of clarification:

**Major Essential Revisions:**
1. More information about patient selection is required; were all extra pulmonary TB patients referred to the hospitals were recruited? If not, how were they selected?
2. Methodological details for drug susceptibility section need to include details of drug concentrations as well as of the controls used.
3. In the study population an association has been shown between HIV+vity and extra pulmonary tuberculosis. However, the discussion is limited by the fact that only EPTB patients were studied (lines 375-383). Is the association between HIV+vity and TB, or is it between HIV+vity and EPTB. The data should be discussed in the context of total numbers of HIV+ve TB and HIV-ve TB patients in the community.
4. An association between CAS strains and lymph node TB is reported (line 448). This requires further explanation given that the authors note that strain distribution in pulmonary TB is similar to that in the EPTB disease studied (lines 423-427). More importantly statistical analysis does not however support any association between disease site and strain (line 345)?
5. Drug sensitivity pattern of EPTB is presented showing 21.6% of strains isolated were resistance to rifampicin. This high resistance rate requires greater analysis and comparison with previous studies from Ethiopia as well as from the region.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**
1. Requires language corrections and editing

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
None to declare