Reviewer’s report

Title: Performance evaluation of three commercial molecular assays for the detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis from clinical specimens in a high TB-HIV-burden setting

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Reviewer: Lucia Barrera

Reviewer’s report:

This investigation provides very useful information to select rapid molecular diagnostics among those that are commercially available to detect tuberculosis and drug-resistant tuberculosis. At the same time, it is original as there are not previous publications on the simultaneous comparative evaluation of the three systems selected by the authors. The manuscript is well and clearly written.

Minor essential revision

The modification applied in the DNA extraction step for Anyplex™plus should be mentioned in the abstract as this procedure might have modified the sensitivity of the system. Also, it would be informative to mention in the abstract the specificity values obtained with the three methods since the investigators compare the performance of open and closed systems.

Clinical decision regarding the patients whose specimens were culture-negative and MTBDRplus and/or Anyplex™ positive should be commented

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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