Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of HIV status and antiretroviral treatment on TB treatment outcomes of new tuberculosis patients attending co-located TB and ART services in South Africa: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 20 Aug 2015

Reviewer: Baba Maiyaki Musa

Reviewer’s report:

There is a disconnect between the narrative in the introduction, the set objectives and methodology. They said "......There are, however, relatively fewer studies on the impact of TB/HIV service integration on TB treatment outcomes among HIV-positive TB patients, and comparative studies of TB treatment outcomes under different models of integration". One would then expect that this is the gap in literature, and supposed intent of the study. Additionally they said "Motivated by the paucity of research on the impact of integrated TB and HIV services on TB treatment outcomes and recent evidence from several trials on the survival benefit of early ART during TB treatment among HIV-positive patients [6-8], we introduced an ART service into a primary health care clinic with a TB service (i.e. co-located HIV and TB services) in Cape Town, South Africa and integrated adherence support and data management; and then examined TB treatment outcomes of new TB patients in relation to HIV status, ART status and CD4 count status." Reading these one would assume the natural sequence should be to study the impact of TB/HIV integration. This can be done by comparing data before and after the integration, or comparing data from center with integration against data from another center without integration. Better still it could be subjected to a cluster randomized control trial, with randomization of centers into arm with and without integration. It you want your conclusion to remain relevant then your narrative has to change.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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