Reviewer’s report

Title: A prospective study of socio-demographic, clinical characteristics and treatment outcomes of children with Tuberculosis in Sindh, Pakistan

Version: 2 Date: 08 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: The study objectives are quite important as there is growing incidences of drug resistance of tuberculosis. Overall the study and manuscript are quite reasonable.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Abstract appears alright.
Methods: exclusion of comorbidities needs more information. What was the protocol for Gene Xpert? How many times this test was performed in each case? What are the samples used for this test? It is not understood how all cases were followed up until the entire course of treatment. Were there any dropouts or inadequate data after enrolment? In what percentage of children HIV was investigated?

Results: Mostly well organized. Please state how many cases were excluded? If possible give CONSORT diagram. Table 1, the information is quite alright. In table 3, the platelet count may not be of any value, hence may be deleted. Please state the type of tuberculosis in 6 patients who died. The mean weight is not meaningful in such wide range of age groups (delete the information). You may state that so many percentages of children were documented to have weight gain following completion of therapy.

Discussion and limitations are well written. However the discussion should focus mainly on the objectives. The other factors can be discussed briefly.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
Language revision is needed as few errors are there.

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

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests  
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
This reviewer has been recruited by a partner organization, Research Square. Reviewers with declared or apparent competing interests are not utilized for these reviews. This reviewer has agreed to publication of their comments online under a Creative Commons Attribution License attributed to Research Square and was paid a small honorarium for completing the review within a specified timeframe. Honoraria for reviews such as this are paid regardless of the reviewer recommendation.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal