Reviewer’s report

Title: Health care seeking delay among pulmonary tuberculosis patients in North West zone of Tigrai region, North Ethiopia

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Reviewer: Eveline Klinkenberg

Reviewer's report:

An interesting paper nicely written up but there is already a lot of evidence around treatment seeking delay so not sure how new the findings are. Also the authors do not propose any solution based on their findings which is a missed opportunity.

ABSTRACT: too much overlap conclusion and results, try to formulate in the conclusion your results more widely and elude to the implications. Important factors affecting delay were identified that could xxxx

Background: please use the latest WHO Global TB report figures and not those from 2014…

Results - health care seeking behavior:

I was surprised to read that nearly 30% sought care because they suspected they had TB.. are you sure the question were asked without bias?

There are no specific data reported on seeking care in the private sector or from traditional healers, it would be good to include some if available.

Results - factors associated: instead of low knowledge please use the term limited knowledge

Discussion: you suggest the delay of farmers could be due to less knowledge - did you also observe this in your study as you measured knowledge?
You indicate those seeking care at the health centre had less delay compared to those seeking care at the hospital. Do you have more info on this? Did those patients seek care first at the hospital or first elsewhere hence the suggested delay? Did you carefully investigate the full patient pathway?

You discuss the findings on traditional healers and financial problems in the same paragraph, does that mean they are related? i.e. is it cheaper to visit the traditional healer?

The discussion misses to look forward to outline how the delay could be tackled and reduced in the future based on the findings, that is a pity.

Note: English editing needed.

**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.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
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Yes

**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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