Reviewer’s report

Title: Delays to anti-tuberculosis treatment initiation among cases on Directly Observed Treatment Short course in districts of Southwestern Ethiopia. A cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 29 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Daniel Mekonnen

Reviewer's report:

Major issues
1. Issue of conciseness!!
2. Issue of logical flow of idea by using appropriate connectors. Thus, difficult to do a point by point comment.

Introduction
-I advised authors to use the latest (2017) WHO report for line 19-23 and for Ethiopia, paragraph 2.
Use key indicators and summarize
Line 34: Why studies of delayed diagnosis and treatment are limited to PTB+?
In general: This section need to be well summarized and reduced in content

Methods
Study setting
-I advise authors to make brief this section and bring it one small paragraph: for example you can delete line 16-22, line 28-39.
-Combine setting and design together; sample size and sampling technique in another group
-Explain the rationale for excluding <18 years of age groups

Data collection and Analysis
-This section is too detail. I advise authors to summarize and make it brief.

In general, the method section should be concise and brief

Result
-Line 17-20 should rephrased
-Be consistent in using frequency and percentage. Xx(%)  
-Avoid long sentences
- Try to improve the logical flow of information
-All sentences are separated and have no appropriate connectors. Thus, I advised authors to use
appropriate connectors, combine related information together and show transition from one message to
other
-Rewriting the whole table is unnecessary.
-Unnecessary sub division should be avoided. For example, patient delay, provider delay, and total
delay can be summarized in three short paragraphs.
-Authors put P-value for each variable. Instead, you can group significant variable in one group and
non-significant in other so that you can put; P<0.05 OR P>0.05 by letting the details in the table
-Avoid repeating of words and sentences using "or". Brackets.

Discussion
-Line 42-46: combine the two sentence in one in a summarized way.
-Avoid repetition of messages from one paragraph to other.
-unnecessary too long discussion.

-Table3:
HIV Result: I advised you to use HIV pos/Neg rather than reactive/Non-reactive, see your table 5

-Summary and conclusion
Need an improvement

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.

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

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.

I declare that I have no competing interests

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