Reviewer’s report

Title: Genomic characterization of MDR/XDR-TB in Kazakhstan by a combination of high-throughput methods predominantly shows the ongoing transmission of the L2/Beijing 94-32 Central Asian/Russian clusters.

Version: 1 Date: 13 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Kennedy Addo

Reviewer’s report:

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Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

REVIEWER COMMENTS - K. K. Addo

Manuscript Number: INFD-D-18-01886R1

Full Title: Genomic characterization of MDR/XDR-TB in Kazakhstan by a combination of high-throughput methods shows a predominant transmission of the L2/Beijing 94-32 cluster

General comments

Some grammatical errors were identified throughout the manuscript. I recommend that the authors make use of language editing services.

Summary

Line 32

Insert "tuberculosis (TB)" between high-burden and prevalence.

Line 38

State the actual total number (Three hundred and ninety one) of samples typed by the two methods

Background
Reconcile the statement in this line with the one made in line 32 (Whether Kazakhstan belong to the WHO list of high burden-TB prevalence countries or otherwise).

DST should be written in full before the abbreviated form

You stated in the summary a period from July-November 2015 in the background but you stated from 2010-2015 in the summary and somewhere else. Please clarify.

Methods

DNA extraction methods should be deleted from this sub-heading and be given a sub-heading on its own before the description from line 119.

What type of medium was the primary isolates obtained before subculture on solid Lowenstein-Jensen (LJ) medium?

Delete "solid or"

Do not start a sentence with a figure. Write them in words.

It was stated that 700 DNA were shipped to France and to The Netherlands for further studies in two shipments (June 2015, n=93, August 2015, n=605). However, the sum of 93 and 605 is 698. Please state the actual number if it isn't a mistake. Do not approximate.

Second-lane drugs should be second-line drugs
Is the denominator for TB-SPOL 700 or 698?

Line 397

Quality insurance should be changed to quality assurance

Line 464, 465

First-line should be changed to first-line

**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?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**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

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