Reviewer’s report

Title: Predicting the risk of pulmonary tuberculosis based on the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio at TB screening in HIV-infected individuals

Version: 0 Date: 06 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Paola Di Carlo

Reviewer's report:

the sample size makes the interesting manuscript in this era in which many publications have revisited the concept of ratio neutrophils / lymphocytes or monocytes / lymphocytes

Data were analyzed statistically appropriate way.

It is difficult to define the diagnostic role of the ratio neutrophil to lymphocyte counts in a population of HIV-positive subjects where the steps of the diagnosis of immunological laboratory tuberculosis are often difficult even when using cutting-edge tests such as ELISPOT assays

The authors should comment more on these aspects in the discussion proposing a model of multimodel diagnostic approach via figure

Finally, Please insert and comment the following reference in HIV population

<< Quantitative and qualitative profiles of circulating monocytes may help identifying tuberculosis infection and disease stages.

La Manna MP, Orlando V, Dieli F, Di Carlo P, Cascio A, Cuzzi G, Palmieri F, Goletti D, Caccamo N.

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.

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:

Acceptable

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 don't have any conflicts of 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