Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of Isoniazid preventive therapy on tuberculosis incidence in adult HIV-infected patients under Pre-ART Care, Jimma University Specialized Hospital, South West of Ethiopia, Retrospective cohort study.

Version: 2 Date: 1 December 2014

Reviewer: Valeria Saraceni

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

1 - Introduction: could be limited to 5 paragraphs, it's too long now, with some information being repeated,

2 - Methods:
2.1 - It's not clear to the reader what the Ethiopian's Guidelines say about who should be put on IPT. I guess it's quite important to understand those rules, in order to understand the differences among those who took it and those who didn't.
2.2 - I suggest to the authors to add a chi-square test for homogeneity of proportions, so the readers can better assess the differences among IPT users and non users - Tables 1 and 2 will benefit from that.

3 - Results:
3.1 - for all data, I suggest a fixed number of digits after the decimal point. It's better for reading and to remember the results while reading the paper.
3.2 - Tables 1 and 2 would benefit from a column with the resulting p-value of the chi-square for homogeneity of proportions. I suggest taking out the TOTAL column and add the p-value.
3.3 - when referring to a smaller number of subjects in a row, use "n" instead of "N".
3.4 - The tables are mistakenly numbered and the reference to them on the text reflect those typos, I believe.
3.5 - The COx analysis would benefit from a correlation evaluation between OI and WHO stages. I guess the same individuals would be in the same place, like presence of previous OIs correlates with WHO stages 3 and 4. If present, the multivariable analysis would allow only one of those 2 covariates.

4 - Discussion:
4.1 - The authors need to focus more on their point. The text comes and goes around the same references, and some allegations for differences found among the studies are not convincing.
4.2 - The discussion around CD4 cell counts on page 11 is confusing and didn't add new information from this study.
4.3 - The inability to check on those lost to follow-up is really a problem in this study, because many of them could have developed TB and died from it.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.