Reviewer's report

Title: Gridlock from Diagnosis to Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Tanzania: Low Accessibility of Molecular Diagnostic Services and Lack of Healthcare Worker Empowerment in 28 Districts of 5 high burden TB Regions with Mixed Methods Evaluation

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Halima Dawood

Reviewer's report:

This study sought to identify healthcare worker related barriers to implementation of diagnosis of drug resistant tuberculosis. They found under utilization of molecular diagnostics in high risk individuals for the diagnosis of drug resistant TB.

Abstract: The conclusion is a recommendation rather than a finding of the study. The summary in the text better summarizes the findings of the study.

Method: this mixed method (qualitative and quantitative) study use cross-sectional and retrospective design. It is unclear what random sampling was used for? The study appears to have many components, however, it is difficult to clearly understand the methods as written.

It is unclear why health care worker consent was waived and how patient confidentiality was maintained.

Results:

The study found that only 39% of districts had laboratory capacity for MDR-Tb diagnostics, with insufficient staff training and functional machines.

In addition healthcare worker knowledge of clinical application and interpretation of the results was not optimal. Opportunities for diagnosis and treatment of MDR-TB were missed. Suggest restructure results to align with each of the study aims so it will be easier to follow.

Discussion: Suggest a revision of the structure of the discussion to include possible reasons for study findings, unanswered questions and future recommendations.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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