Reviewer’s report

Title: Delay in tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment in Amhara state, Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 20 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Rubia Andrade

Reviewer’s report:

Manuscript with important issue for public health, since the delay in TB diagnosis may contribute to the increased burden of disease. However, the study needs adjustments and contributes little to the knowledge advance.

Title-too long. It could be synthesized.

Abstract - ok. It describes the study as a whole.

Background - the literature review is questionable, since it says that only one study looked at the TB patients behavior of search for health services. Authors have to be careful with this statement, saying the databases and the period considered in the bibliographic survey. Authors could end the background with the objective of the study and with its hypothesis. In the introduction and methods, there are many repeated phrases that should be reviewed.

Methods - Study site could be better explained, talking about how the behavior of TB in this place is and why it was chosen. Authors should explain how care is organized to attend acute cases of TB in the studied region and what kind of services are available to these cases (Primary Health Care services, Emergency services). I couldn't understand what woreda is. I couldn't understand the randomization process if the authors included in the study all patients who were undergoing treatment for TB. I couldn't understand the sampling procedure since all patients of the woredas were included. I couldn't understand how the clustering was done. I question the quality of selection of the participants of the study in period after the diagnosis, since it may lead to a recall bias. Furthermore, I question the participation of children. How do they answered to the questionnaire? Population of the study - I wonder how many patients with TB were in the studied region and how many effectively participated in it?

Results - tables with incomplete titles - could include location and period of the study. The description of the tables in the text are also incomplete.

Discussion - at the end of the discussion, author could advance to an understanding of the role of the local health system organization in the TB diagnosis and not only in specific requirements related to the variables of the study.

Conclusions - ok. It summarizes the main findings of the study.

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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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I declare that I have no competing interests.

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