Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 14 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Sven Gudmund Hinderaker

Reviewer’s report:

This is a study on delay in TB. It has some challenges.

1. Language needs to be improved. Both abstract and main text needs revision.

2. One important issue is potential BIAS. You have SELECTED patients to represent all 7 districts, but we do not know criteria for selection. Consecutive? Patient under treatment? Defined dates? Patients who came for collection of drugs? We do not know exactly how selection was done. Any exclusion criteria? All ages?

3. Definition is now written in BACKGROUND but not clear. Is is smart to follow common definitions. "Patient delay" usually from symptoms to diagnosis. "Health system delay" from diagnosis to initiation of treatment. For ANALYSIS you define what you define as LONG "delay".

4. As the other reviewers say I think better simplify title: "Delay in tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment in Amhara State, Ethiopia"

5. References must have full info. Website NOT needed. e.g ref.# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 16. Documents (not papers) need like this in bibliography: Authors. Title. Place of publication, Publisher:Year. (Website is optional.)

6. Table titles can be simplified: e.g.

   Table 1 "Characteristics of tuberculosis patients in seven districts of North Shoa district, Ethiopia, December 2017."

   Table 2. "Care seeking and investigations among tuberculosis patients in seven districts of North Shoa district, Ethiopia, December 2017." Almost same as Table 1.

   Table 3. "Determinants of delay in diagnosis of tuberculosis in seven districts of North Shoa district, Ethiopia, December 2017."

7. Table 3. IF you have 95% CI you need not p-values. Write in table footnote which adjustment factors you used. This can also be mentioned in Methods/analysis. We do not know how adjustment was done.
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.

No

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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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