Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 14 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Sven Gudmund Hinderaker

Reviewer’s report:

Several things are improved, but still not ready for publishing.

One extremely important issue I forgot to mention before is ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS. There must be a section inside methods about ethical considerations. Can not publish without it.

I refer to my previous 6 points in Review 1:

#1. The language needs editing. It needs proper language revision, not just your own editing.

#2. Selection of participants is improved. However, in the comments (not in paper) it is stated that "critically ill patients were excluded", which is very understandable! But this the number must be reported! You have 170 included, and 162 responded, but how many excluded? The problem is that the very ill patients MAY have different delays (not likely but possible). Therefore to trust the results you need to say out of consecutive patients how many were excluded. If very few, it is less of concern, but if 50 it may bias your results!

#3. Definitions should be in "Background", but the cut-off you should only give in METHODS, cut-off that YOU use is for this project and should be in methods as now.

Furthermore, you say Pt.delay=from symptom to first arrival at health system (HS). HEALTH SYSTEM delay is time from arrival to treatment initiation. Remember, there is often delay from DIAGNOSIS to "treatment initiation", should be very short but not always. Everybody in TB control knows that treatment should be started as soon as diagnosis is there, but we also know that reality is not always this way. You must clearly define your premises for analysis. Perhaps your data ONLY looks at PATIENT delay, be very clear about this!!

#4. OK

#5. Take out ref.1, you can not find ref and it is not needed. Ref.3: Which year? All details MUST be correct.

#6. Tables are better now. Table2 I suggest variable "Delayed health seeking" do not indicate "YES/NO", but rather "Diagnosed at first visit/Not diagnosed at first visit", it helps reader understand.
I am sorry that NO result of health system delay is included. Usually papers assess both.

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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