Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient and health care system characteristics are associated with delayed treatment of tuberculosis cases in Taiwan

Version: 1 Date: 09 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Trisasi Lestari

Reviewer's report:

First of all, I'd like to thank the authors for responding to reviewers comments.

Below please find several comments that I think will be helpful in improving the manuscript.

1. The authors explained that the healthcare system might be not efficient in diagnosis TB promptly. Therefore reader will think about the availability of GenXpert MTB/RIF which can identify MTB within 2 hours. The authors comments that use of GenXpert is currently not popular in Taiwan. I guess what the authors means was it was not popular or not available in 2013. Use of GenXpert MTB/RIF at initial visit is important to reduce HSD. If possible, the authors can provide update on current distribution of GenXpert in Taiwan and if its reduce HSD.

2. Line 98: please move the abbreviations after the words. "health system delay (HSD) analysis [14,15]"

3. It is not clear why 60 days was choose as cut off point for two separate episode of respiratory illness, while 28 days was choose as cut off point for chronic respiratory disease.

4. The circular figure is still confusing. It is easier to understand the simple map of district in Taiwan. I suggest to convert the circular figure into map and put it together with the access to diagnosis and treatment maps. Other alternative is to combine these three maps into one bar chart, consist of proportion of TB cases, proportion of patient received TB diagnosis at initial visit and proportion of patient received TB treatment at initial visit (or within 28 days from first date of visit) with proportion in X-axis and districts in Y-axis.

5. Please provide title for each figure. Figure 4 should not use line chart because regions are independent unit. What is the different between figure 4 and 5?
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?
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No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I recommend additional statistical review

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