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Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_7885
Title of the Manuscript:	DISCORDANCES BETWEEN SPUTUM SMEAR AND CULTURE CONVERSION RATES IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	1. Suggest have the paper evaluated by a statistician; logistic regression may be the more appropriate test to determine factors affecting discordance between AFB smear and culture.	Logistic regression analysis was conducted to determine factors affecting discordance between AFB smear and culture at the second month of treatment. It was described in statistical analysis section: “Logistic regression analysis was used to determine the factor affecting discordance between sputum AFB smear and mycobacterium culture at the second month of treatment. Univariate logistic regression analysis was performed to establish the association of each factor with the discordance between two methods and multivariate logistic regression analysis was strictly applied to variables with $P \leq 0.2$ in univariate analysis to identify the factor affecting discordance between two methods.” The results were shown in table 3 and described in the results section: “Patients with and without discordance were compared and the predictors were also demonstrated (Table 3).” and “Logistic regression analysis showed that baseline sputum AFB smear $\geq 2+$ (adjusted OR=2.38, CI=1.09-5.18) and hearing alteration during intensive phase (adjusted OR=10.98,



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		CI=1.79-67.28) were the significant predictors for discordance between sputum AFB smear and culture at second month of treatment.” and also in abstract section: Descriptive statistics and multiple logistic regression analysis were applied as appropriate. and High bacilli load (adjusted OR=2.38, CI=1.09-5.18), and hearing alteration (adjusted OR=10.98, CI=1.79-67.28) were significant predictors.
	2. Also try to simplify tables 4-5; this may not be needed	Table 4 and 5 were revised.



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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Suggest change title to "Factors affecting discordance between sputum smear and culture conversion..."	The title was changed to "FACTORS AFFECTING DISCORDANCE BETWEEN SPUTUM SMEAR AND CULTURE CONVERSION RATES IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY "
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	Very good study. Please clarify statement in lines 299-301: patients with resistance were still continued with conventional treatment?	Revised statement: "Among patients with primary drug resistance, 82.4% (14/17) of patients with monodrug resistances and 77.7% (7/9) of patients with drug resistances to both isoniazid and streptomycin completed treatment and cured of TB using standard treatment regimen." to "Among patients with primary drug resistance, 82.4% (14/17) of patients with monodrug resistances and 77.7% (7/9) of patients with drug resistances to both isoniazid and streptomycin completed treatment and cured of TB using standard treatment regimen. This was due to time consuming processes of culture and DST. When the results were reported, patients already completed intensive phase and started continuation phase. Most physicians continued standard regimen in patients with clinical improvement and AFB smear negative though primary drug resistance was reported. "