Figure 4. HIV RNA levels in monocyte culture supernatants are associated with peripheral blood CD4$^+$ cell counts. Monocytes isolated from HIV-infected subjects ($n=9$) were cultured in vitro. Supernatants in six subjects produced low levels of productive viral particles. HIV-infected subjects were divided into two groups by CD4$^+$ cell count around a median of 400 cells/μl. HIV RNA levels (viral load, logarithmically scaled) of each group are shown. The group with <400 CD4$^+$ cells/μl had higher HIV replication levels than the group of >400 CD4$^+$ cells/μl ($^a p=0.0323$). Data was analyzed using an independent $t$ test.