Reviewer's report

**Title:** Reliability of anthropometric measures in a longitudinal cohort of patients initiating ART in West Africa

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 August 2010

**Reviewer:** alessandra viganò

Reviewer's report:

GENERAL COMMENT

Although the Authors are to be commended for trying to publish their negative experience with anthropometry, I believe that this paper would be of limited interest to the readers of BMC Research and Methodology.

MAJOR COMMENTS

The study evaluated just 12 subjects. While it is true that other studies have evaluated few subjects, the authors should explain why this number was reputed to be sufficient and why an effort to enroll more subjects was not done (maybe for logistic reasons?)

It appears that not all measurements, e.g. waist circumference, were performed on all the 12 subjects. Please report the number of measurement available for each anthropometric dimension as this will influence the interpretation of the results.

MINOR COMMENTS

Were the subjects enrolled for the reliability study comparable to those studied in the cohort? A short description of their features would be useful.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'