Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with presentation to care with advanced HIV disease in Brussels and Northern France: 1997-2007

Version: 1 Date: 2 November 2010

Reviewer: Enrico Girardi

Reviewer’s report:

This paper is well written and the data are analyzed correctly. I think no major revisions are needed

Minor essential revisions
The definitions used are somehow confusing. In particular in my opinion the definition of early testing for those who had a six months delay between testing and presentation to care can be misleading since these patients may well have had a first positive test when already at low CD4 cells count. I would suggest replacing early testing with another definition (delayed presentation??)

It is not clear what the author mean by presentation to care: first CD4 cells count?, two clinic visits?. A definition should be provided.

How many patients with delayed presentation and how many with late testing eventually presented to care with AIDS defining illnesses? This information should be provided and discussed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest