Reviewer's report

Title: To use or not to use a condom: A prospective cohort study comparing contraceptive practices among HIV-infected and HIV-negative youth in Uganda

Version: 2 Date: 3 January 2011

Reviewer: Audrey Pettifor

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Major Complusory Revision

Thank you for the comprehensive response.

One further area for clarity, the authors state that

“Contraceptive discontinuation was defined as stopping the use of contraception during the 12 months after baseline or after initiation of use at any time during the follow-up. At six months follow-up, all respondents who were using contraception at baseline but stopped contraceptive use we considered “discontinued contraception” . At twelve months follow-up, all respondents who were using contraception at six months but stopped contraceptive use were considered to estimate the discontinued contraception in the previous six months.”

I am just trying to make sure I understand, so this is an aggregate measure? So if an individual used at baseline, reported not using at 6 months, but then was using again at 12 months- does that individual only get 1 value- (in this case the 12 month value of uptake?) Can 1 individual be both someone who took up contraception during the 12 months and also discontinued or does each individual only get one ‘outcome’? This is just one example, but I am trying to figure out how you determine the final outcome for an individual whose use varies over the 3 time points. This is true for the contraceptive uptake variable as well. Further clarification is greatly appreciated.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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