Author's response to reviews

Title: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) types Western blot (WB) band profiles as potential surrogate markers of HIV disease progression and predictors of vertical transmission in a cohort of infected but antiretroviral therapy naïve pregnant women in Harare, Zimbabwe

Authors:

Kerina Duri (tkduri@yahoo.co.uk)
Fredrik Muller (fredrik.muller@rr-research.no)
Felicity Z Gumbo (zvanyadz@mweb.co.zw)
Nyaradzai E Kurewa (enkurewa@hotmail.com)
Simba Rusakaniko (srusakaniko@yahoo.com)
Mike Z Chirenje (chirenje@uz-ucsf.co.zw)
Munyaradzi P Mapingure (pmapingure@yahoo.co.uk)
Babill Stray-Pedersen (babill.stray-pedersen@medisin.uio.no)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript ID MS: 7764721783949173 entitled “Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) types Western blot profiles as surrogate markers of HIV disease progression and predictors of vertical transmission among pregnant women in Harare, Zimbabwe”.

All reviewers’ comments have been addressed in line with their suggestions as detailed below including correction of grammatical errors. Changes made are shown in red text in the revised manuscript. Use of capitals has been addressed throughout the manuscript as per your journal’s guidelines.

A. Title
In an effort to make the title as more concise, accurate, complete and informative as per your journal tips on titles, the title now reads;

“Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) types Western blot (WB) band profiles as potential surrogate markers of HIV disease progression and predictors of vertical transmission in a cohort of infected but antiretroviral therapy naïve pregnant women in Harare, Zimbabwe

B. Abstract (350 words)
The abstract has been restructured in line with your journal medical series guidelines with background, methods, results and conclusion sections.

• Background
Under this section we have placed the study into the current knowledge of the
importance of sequential appearance of WB and HIV disease progression and how this could be translated into practical application in poor resource settings in view of the current brain drain challenges.

• Methods
The techniques used are well explained including the statistical tests employed.

• Results and Conclusion
There is not much difference in the results and conclusion section as the authors felt these were done well in the first place.

• References
References have been re-structured in line with your journal’s style as explained on your website.

Thank you for all the comments and corrections. We hereby resubmit the article to your journal only. The revised manuscript has been reviewed and approved by co-authors. We hope the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication in your journal.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Kerina Duri