Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of Gender on Response to Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy in HIV-1 Infected Patients: A nationwide population-based cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 4 September 2012

Reviewer: Karine Lacombe

Reviewer's report:

Thorsteinsson, et al. are addressing the issue of gender in HIV treatment outcomes, from time to initiation to treatment response and tolerance. This is a very important topic usually not addressed in proper ways as most data derive from clinical trials in which less than 20% of included patients are women. To reach this study’s objectives, the authors have used the well-know HIV Danish data base from which data have been extracted and analysed.

The findings reported in this paper do meet expectations and can be considered robust, considering the methodology employed by the authors. Some minor remarks are listed below and would bring some more clarity:

1- Why having excluded HCV-infected patients and IVDU? The explanations provided by the authors are not entirely satisfactory; they could have been taken into account by either adjustment or by introducing a term of interaction.

2- Page 4, the description of HAART looks confusing, please reformulate.

3- Tables should not have vertical lines.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests’