Author's response to reviews

Title: Virologic versus immunologic monitoring and the rate of accumulated genotypic resistance to first-line antiretroviral drugs in Uganda

Authors:

Steven J Reynolds (sjr@jhmi.edu)
Hakim Sendigire (hsendagire@yahoo.com)
Kevin Newell (newellk@niaid.nih.gov)
Barbara Castelnuovo (bcastelnuovo@idi.co.ug)
Immaculate Nankya (inankya@hotmail.com)
Moses Kamya (mkamya@infocom.co.ug)
Thomas C Quinn (tquinn@jhmi.edu)
Yukari C Manabe (ymanabe@jhmi.edu)
Andrew Kambugu (akambugu@idi.co.ug)

Version: 3 Date: 6 December 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find attached our revised manuscript “Virologic versus immunologic monitoring and the rate of accumulated genotypic resistance to first-line antiretroviral drugs in Uganda”. Included in our submission is a point-by-point response to each comment.

Please note that all authors have contributed to and agreed to publication of this manuscript. The authors declare no conflict of interest. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your consideration of our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Reynolds, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Associate Professor of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University
Senior Clinician
Division of Intramural Research
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
2190 Kampala Place
Dulles, VA 20189

Response to Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 2: Maurizio Zazzi

1. [minor essential revision] Page 8. Since genotyping was performed at different time points in the VLM and IM group, I would also report the comparison between the rate of drug resistance observed in the VLM group at month 36 and the rate of drug resistance observed in the IM group.
Response: We have added this information in the results section as requested:

“We also compared the 10 VLM clients with genotype results at 36 months to the 70 IM clients at 36 months, 6/10 (60%) of VLM clients as opposed to 63/70 (90%) in the IM group had at least 1 NNRTI mutation (p=0.1034). Four out of ten (40%) of VLM clients had an M184V mutation compared to 61/70 (87%) of IM clients
(P=0.0185). None of the VLM clients developed TAMS whereas 34/70 (49%) of IM clients developed TAMS (p<0.0001).”