Reviewer's report

Title: Risk factors for subclinical atherosclerosis in HIV-infected patients under and over 40 years: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2012

Reviewer: Dana Byrne

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. I can't find table 1/figure 1, which I assume was the demographic differences between cases and controls. I was interested in seeing what percentage of the older adults were on what HAART regimen. The supplementary material starts at Table 2, but I'm not sure where 1 went.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Abstract line 4: change "compare de" to compare the
2. Background line 7: would change the "on the one hand" phrase (take it out)- sounds too casual
3. Background Line 11: Similarly, would take out the reference to the "other hand"
4. Is there a reference for Background line 20-21 "more recent data..."
5. Page 5, line 7-8: Would put the reference at the end of the sentence and add "and AS a predictor..."
6. Would consider putting the table provided in the supplementary materials that would visually display the results described at the bottom of the "Characteristics of the study participants according to age group" into the paper (I assume it will be integrated and not just supplementary in the print article, but I'm not sure). Specifically I was interested in how the authors stratified by type of HAART (which is in the supplementary material).
7. Discussion Line 4 Page 12: Would change the first sentence to clarify it. Maybe change the "latter group" to the "<40 group"

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Abstract Line 7: would change "in use of their first antiretroviral regimen" to something like "or individuals who remain on their first ARV regimen"
2. Abstract line 21: Would explain consensual union- I assume that is like same sax marriage in the US, but I am unfamiliar with the term. Is it the same?
3. Page 5, line 11-13. I think the second objective could be stated a little more clearly. Reading that part of the sentence alone doesn't tell me what the second objective is (but it should)
4. Please fix the spacing issues about halfway down page 15.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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