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: 18 October 2012

Reviewer: MAhboob Alam

Reviewer's report:

Overall, it is a well written manuscript. However, I have one concern:

1. As your group has reported, these two patient groups are significantly different in terms of baseline cardiovascular risk profile. While, some of it may be related to HAART therapy (i.e. longer duration in older group), it is still possible that these older patients may have underlying risk of CAD due to other traditional risk factors.

While multi-variate analysis is a good way to evaluate for independent associations, it still does not reduce the potential for selection bias in any case-control study.

In my opinion, if possible, consider reporting analysis after you have performed PROPENSITY MATCHING for traditional cardiovascular risk factors on these patients. There is a possibility that you may have a smaller sample size after matching for traditional risk factors including diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia, metabolic syndrome and smoking.

What is the reason behind using 40 years as a cut off for age?

Thank You.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.