Reviewer’s report

Title: Stability of unfrozen whole blood DNA for remote genotypic analysis of HIV-1 coreceptor tropism

Version: 1 Date: 24 June 2013

Reviewer: Jacques IZOPET

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Major Compulsory Revisions

This study by Meini and colleagues examines pre-analytics conditions (storing whole blood at +4° versus at -20°C) for genotypic tropism testing from HIV-1 DNA in patients under suppressive antiretroviral therapy. The authors conclude that storing whole blood at +4° is a suitable method for genotypic tropism testing. The design of this study is adequate and the results have practical implications. However, I see two limitations.

1/ The data do not show tropism results i.e presence of R5 or X4 viruses. It seems important to demonstrate similar performance for detecting X4 viruses for each storing conditions.

2/ The clinical relevance of tropism testing from HIV-DNA in HIV patients with suppressed viremia is probably supported by published data. References must be provided.

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

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