Reviewer's report

**Title:** The epidemiology of sexually transmitted co-infections in HIV-positive and HIV-negative African-Caribbean women in Toronto

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 August 2013

**Reviewer:** Marc Steben

**Reviewer's report:**

- **title:** I do not understand the concept of co-infection in HIV-negative... never heard of such nomenclature...
- **p3 methods in abstract:** typos++ with repeat herpes simplex virus type 1 and herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-2) = herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2)
- **p3 results:** why look for vaginal HPV?
- **HSV-2 serology:** you need to discuss asymptomatic vs symptomatic patients, cut-off for positivity. The PPV in patients with positive serology is not great. Maybe better in higher prevalence population but in general population...
- **how do you ascertain positivity for BV?** Nugent score on a wet mount? If so, you should put intermediate flora and not only BB.
- **in your table 2, what is abnormal vaginal flora?** How do you define this?
- **how do you test for Trichomonas?** This should also be in your lab section

The paper is well written and gives an insight of the interaction between the microbiota of the vagina and HIV

**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 personally know many of these researchers and Rob Remis was my boss more than 10 years ago