Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical and Immunological outcomes according to adherence to first-line HAART in a urban and rural cohort of HIV-infected patients in Burkina Faso, West Africa: a longitudinal Cohort study

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

enclosed for your consideration our revised manuscript entitled “Clinical and Immunological outcomes according to adherence to first-line HAART in a urban and rural cohort of HIV-infected patients in Burkina Faso, West Africa: a longitudinal Cohort study” for possible publication as research Article on your estimated BMC Infectious Diseases Journal.

We added in the Methods section (pag. 5-6, lines 108-112) a sentence about the ethics statement:

“The Study was conducted in a resource poor-Country in compliance with the Helsinki declaration. The Governing Boards of the Hospitals where the research was carried out (CMSC, CERBA and Nanoro District Hospital) have been duly informed about the ongoing research and have given permission. Being a retrospective non-interventional study founded on post hoc analysis of data present in all the patients' files, and collected only for clinical indications, no written informed consent was asked to patients”

We are confident that the Editorial Board may understand the difficulties existing in a resource-poor Country in conducting a similar study that, although retrospective, can open new scenarios in the understanding of some aspects of this diseases in resource-limited settings.

We thank you in advance for your comprehension in evaluating this manuscript.

Yours faithfully
Emanuele Focà, MD