Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Correlates of Cytopenias in HIV-Infected Adults Initiating Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy in Uganda

Version: 2 Date: 20 March 2014

Reviewer: Ochaka Egesie

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions

Definition of terms: Neutropenia—defined in terms of absolute neutrophil count (expressed as number of cells X 10^9/l) below the expected lower limit of reference range and not as percentage of differential white blood cell count.

Keywords: cytopenia—covers anemia, leucopenia and thrombocytopenia and so need not be repeated singly here.

Clinical factors: MCV, CD4 cell count—these are laboratory factors and not clinical factors.

SI unit for leucocytes, platelets measurement is the number of cell X 10^9/l.

Other comments

1. The issue of micronutrient trial was not well defined in the research question posed by authors. In other words, the authors did not state at the beginning that they were set out to test the influence of micronutrients on the degree of cytopenia or its prevalence in the study subjects

2. Study participants should be replaced by subjects.

3. The issue of controls were ill defined

4. Reference citing: ok. However, references mentioned in the text should be serial and seen to be progressively increasing rather than a random haphazard approach adapted.

5. Tables: 1—requires improvement in organization. The title also needs reframing for better correlation with the content of the table.

Table 2: ok.

Table 3–6: input of additional reviewer with statistical expertise needed.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I do declare that I have no competing interest.