Reviewer's report

Title: cART prescription trends in a prospective HIV cohort in rural Tanzania from 2007 to 2011

Version: 2 Date: 17 December 2013

Reviewer: Joseph Sempa

Reviewer's report:

The authors try to describe the trends of prescription of stavudine in the Kilombero Ulanga Antiretroviral Cohort (KIULARCO). They highlight the attachment to stavudine that most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa still have even after many if not all of the countries had to change their ART treatment guidelines that recommend dropping any treatment combination containing stavudine.

GUIDELINES – Major Issues
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1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Data collection and entry: Yes
   Data analysis: Yes
   How did the authors deal with missing data points in their analysis?

3. Are the data sound?
   The data that was used seemed to be limited due to the under reporting of side effects due to use of stavudine.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   No.
   The data flow diagram which has been presented here does not show information on who was excluded from the analysis if any. If the authors included all patients in the analysis then it should be stated clearly else they should provide information about who they excluded and why in the data flow diagram.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
yes
9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

GENERAL ISSUES TO NOTE – Minor issues
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None

Level of interest
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This article highlights some important facts about the adoption of the WHO guidelines in limited resource setting in Sub-Saharan Africa. We note that though national guidelines may be changed to reflect the WHO guidelines, there is a slow push towards their implementation due to many factors including finances. This is therefore an article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.

**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:**
The reviewer does not have any competing interest in the review of this paper.