Reviewer's report

Title: Total protein, albumin and low-molecular-weight protein excretion in HIV-positive patients

Version: 5 Date: 9 June 2012

Reviewer: MINORU ANDO

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Major Compulsory Revisions
The content of this revised manuscript has been simplified and focused on clinical assessment of tubular markers in HIV-infected patients. The authors likely want to conclude that urinary RBP measurement is a more useful urinary biomarker, as compared to either NGAL or cystatin C. Nevertheless, the presence of structural or functional tubular injury in the minority with elevated RBPCR more than the upper quartile range was not proved at all by kidney biopsy and/or other functional tests. Hence, this result could be vulnerable from the scientific point of view.

Minor Essential Revisions
Figure 1-D: Labels on x and y-axes are missing.

Figure 2: The black bar for TFV/PI for the value of >343.4 should be drawn.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.