Author's response to reviews

Title: Adherence to Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy and its correlates among HIV infected pediatric patients in Ethiopia.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer’s report

Title: Adherence to Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy and its correlates among HIV infected pediatric patients in Ethiopia.

Version: 2 Date: 28 October 2008
Reviewer: Elaine Abrams

Reviewer’s report:

There is still no clear distinction between caregiver self-report and self-report by the children and no mention of the limitations of self-report by caregivers as it applies to pediatric adherence.

- We have replaced self-report with caregivers report

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Page 2. Results: “A total of 339 children (86.9%) self reported they were adherent to antiretroviral” …The authors need to clarify this, there is a difference between caregiver report and self-report by the child. In this study interviews were conducted with caregivers, not the child. This is important because caregivers tend to overestimate adherence.

Corrected

Page 2. Conclusion: …“Use of cotrimoxazole is essential to improve adherence to ART among children”. This is conclusion is a stretch of the data presented. There was an association with adherence however, you cannot conclude that CTX is essential for adherence.

Removed

Page 4. Participants:
The exclusion criteria were: children, who were terminally ill, care giver in a moribund state and age less than 3 months or greater than 14 years. The authors need to re-word the sentence, looks like care giver < than 3 months or > 14 years.

Corrected accordingly

Page 8. Factors Associated with Pediatric Adherence to antiretroviral Therapy: Cotrimoxazole intake besides ARV …. not ever receiving nutritional support from the clinic”. This is confusing, the authors need to reword the sentence e.g., receipt of nutritional support from the clinic was associated with decreased adherence.

Corrected

Page 10. Discussion: “Consistent findings were obtained in several studies.” The authors need to clarify which of their findings were consistent with other studies since contrary to the literature there was no association between adherence in this cohort of children and nutritional support.

Corrected

Minor Essential Revisions

Vocabulary: The authors need to spell out words e.g., did not instead of didn’t, abbreviations d4T, 3TC NVP and EFV need to be spelled out at least once. Still need work on grammar, punctuation and spelling.
Corrected as per your recommendation

Reference: The authors need to review the references in detail. There are spelling mistakes, grammatical errors and inconsistent use of APA format etc.

Tables and Figures;
Figure 1: what is the value on the x axis? Is it percentage or number of respondents who answered in the affirmative?

Corrected

Table1: Capitalize the heading- Adherent and Non adherent. Font size is different. The last row “Providers estimate of adherence”. Is this the health care provider or the caregiver? The authors should clarify

It is health care providers it is corrected in the document
Table 2: Clinical markers of HIV-infected children in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, April 2008. The last Row- Regimen recommended. Is this the ART regimen the child was on? This should be clearly stated.

Yes, corrected
Table3: Self Reported adherence rate of HAART among children in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
This is caregivers’ report of adherence.