Reviewer's report

Title: Non-Adherence to the Single Dose Nevirapine Regimen for the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV in Bindura Town, Zimbabwe: A cross-sectional analytic study.

Version: 1 Date: 15 June 2009

Reviewer: Erik Schouten

Reviewer's report:

The article addresses an interesting and important topic and I believe that many readers working in the field of PMTCT would be interested in better understanding factors that lead to low uptake of PMTCT services and ways to address the low uptake.

This study analysis factors associated with non-adherence to SD NVP for both mothers and infants in 4 health institutions in Bindura town in Zimbabwe.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The sampling used in the study group is not described.
   It is essential to understand how many pregnancies are expected in the catchment area of the 4 health facilities, the number of pregnant women that were seen in ANC in the 4 health facilities, how many of those were tested for HIV (or HIV status ascertained), how many were tested HIV positive, and how many entered the PMTCT programme and consequently were seen in the postnatal care.
   Without this the ‘extent of non-adherence’ can not be determined. This is a major flaw in the article.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   - Without addressing the sampling methodology (see point 2.) one can not appreciate the sampling bias. I expect there is a major bias and
   - Addressing associated factors related to non-adherence do not necessarily lead to better adherence. E.g. use of traditional herbs during the delivery are associated with non-adherence to SD-NVP. There is no evidence that discouraging use of those herbs will lead to better adherence to SD NVP

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Limitations are stated under ‘Discussion and Conclusions’. However, these limitations did not prevent the authors to establish the extent of non-adherence.
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 Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?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

There is some other important information missing:
- Zimbabwe is going through a severe crisis that influence many aspects of society and I understand that this is also having an effect on the health services. Possible results of the crisis such as availability of drugs and adequate human resources are not mentioned in the article

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.