Reviewer's report

**Title:** Vitamin A deficiency during pregnancy of HIV infected and none infected women in tropical settings of Northwest Ethiopia

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 18 April 2011

**Reviewer:** F Moges

**Reviewer's report:**

A. Discretionary Revisions
On the abstract part
i) Line 4 – Present study “aimed to determine” serum vitamin A should be changed by present study “aimed at determining” serum vitamin A.
ii) Line 6 – “In a cross-sectional study,” …………..can be replaced by “In this cross-sectional study, ---

On Methods and materials
Under biochemical analysis section
Paragraph 2, line 3. “The colour intensity of the blue green colour is directly -------. “The intensity of the blue green colour is directly---. (Remove redundancy of colour)

On Methods under quality control section
Line 4 ----------sufficient serum for the determination of albumin, protein & cholesterol only found for 107---------- correct as “Sufficient sera for the determination of albumin, protein, cholesterol were only found for 107------- -

B. Minor essential revisions
On the abstract part
i) Line 3 – “Studies examining serum vitamin A” should be changed by “studies conducted on serum vitamin A”

ii) Lines 12 & 14 – No consistence in unit of measurement use µmol/L rather micro mol/L.

On the Introduction part.
Paragraph 2, line 1 – The first sentence is abbreviated as VAD, it should be elongated as Vitamin A deficiency.
- Same paragraph line 3 also started as VAD it should be elongated.

- Same paragraph line 4 – “secretary IgA in mucous” should be “secretary IgA in mucous membranes” -------

- Paragraph 3, Line 1– “In this era of HIV/AIDS” --- -------Should be “ In the era of HIV/AIDS” ---
On the Materials & Methods part.
1. First paragraph first line # --- antenatal clinic of University of Gondar Hospital between March and June 2005 in their------- should be corrected as --- antenatal clinic of the University of Gondar Hospital, between March and June 2005, in their --------.

2. On methods under biochemical analysis section:-
   Line 4 ------- HPLC system (shiseido co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) system which --- system is repeated before and after bracket, remove the one after bracket.

3. On the methods part under data analysis sections:-
   Line 5- Logistic regression was used in data analysis- However; I was not able to see the importance of this method at the result part.

On the Results part
- Paragraph 1, Line 2 --- 55 non pregnant voluntaries, who --- ---55 non pregnant volunteers, who ---
- Paragraph 2, Line 3 --- albumin & demographic variables were controlled for. A significant interaction -------. This sentence needs revision.
- Paragraph 2, Line 10 ------- but was not significantly different in the HIV negative group --- correct the sentence as “--------but was not significantly different from that of the HIV negative group”.

Paragraph 4 Line 2 0.7 µmole/L # 0.7 µmol/L
Line 6 07 µmol/L # 0.7 µmol/L
Paragraph 5 Line 1 From 423 pregnant women, ------------------------change to Of 423 pregnant women, -------------------------------------
Paragraph 6 Line 2 --- Lower in HIV positive women compared with -------change to “ Lower in HIV positive pregnant women consumed with ---
Line 4 --- vitamin A decreases across age, the difference between groups did not reach the level of statistical significance ------- change to this sentence “vitamin A decrease with age, the difference between groups was not statistically significant”.

C. Major compulsory revisions – None

**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 declare that I have no Competing interests.