Author's response to reviews

Title: Changes in sexual desires and behaviours of people living with HIV after initiation of ART: Implications for HIV prevention and health promotion

Authors:

Joyce Wamoyi (jwamoyi@hotmail.com)
Martin Mbonye (martin.mbonye@mrcuganda.org)
Janet Seeley (Janet.Seeley@mrcuganda.org)
Josephine Birungi (birungijophine@yahoo.com)
Shabbar Jaffar (shabbar.jaffar@lshtm.ac.uk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/Madam,

Old title: “When there is health there is life” - Changes in sexual desires and behaviours of people living with HIV after initiation of ART: Implications for HIV prevention and health promotion

Revised new title: Changes in sexual desires and behaviours of people living with HIV after initiation of ART: Implications for HIV prevention and health promotion

We are grateful for the further useful comments from the reviewers. We have adequately addressed the various points as follows:

Editor’s comments:

Tables: Please ensure that the order in which your tables are cited is the same as the order in which they are provided. Every table must be cited in the text, using Arabic numerals. Please do not use ranges when listing tables. Tables must not be subdivided, or contain tables within tables. Please note that we are unable to display vertical lines or text within tables, no display merged cells: please re-layout your table without these elements. Tables should be formatted using the Table tool in your word processor. Please ensure the table title is above the table and the legend is below the table. For more information, see the instructions for authors on the journal website. The table has been revised accordingly.

Reviewer 1 (Jerry Okal):
1. The authors should ensure comas, full stops, capitalisation and apostrophes are applied accordingly. See page 8, line 17 last paragraph; page 6 last paragraph “N=7” should be changes to “n=7”; the use of “&” is not allowed.

We have made changes in the suggested places.

2. Can the authors find a substitute word for the term “sexual appetite”? We have now made changes in many places in the document. For example, page 10, 16 and 23. We have however, not removed the word “appetite” in the quotations but put an explanation that that the word “appetite” as used in the quote refers to “sexual interest” (e.g. page 11)

3. The value of information appearing on page 11 third paragraph would be increased immensely if another male quotation is included to show that “many men were more optimistic resuming sex sooner than women. We have now included in an additional quote. Please find this on pages 11 and 12.

4. The second paragraph on page 13 “some of those…”is unclear can the authors rephrase the sentence
We have revised this sentence for clarity.

5. The last paragraph on page 14 “one man whose wife had left him” is unclear maybe the authors should consider rephrasing this text.
   We have rephrased this for clarity (see page 15).

6. Page 16 second paragraph, “…sex was something made by God…” is unclear, the authors should consider rephrasing this text. In the same paragraph the authors use words “however” and “although” following each other, this is not allowed.
   Thanks. We have made the necessary amendments.

7. Page 20, first paragraph, “similar to women, although many men...” this is not linguistically acceptable, please consider revising text
   We have revised the bit being referred to.

8. The authors should endeavour to use the term “safer sex” as opposed to “safe sex” as much as possible.
   We have made changes in the relevant places throughout the manuscript.

9. The acronym “PLWHA” is used for the first time on page 30, can the authors address this please.
   We have addressed this by replacing the acronym with the word “people living with HIV”.

Reviewer 1: Venkatesan Chakrapani

Minor essential revisions
1. Title:
The revised title seems too long. To keep the title relatively short, I suggest removing the quote “when there is health there is life” in the title especially because these words may not be used by researchers (and others) to search for articles on sexual behaviours of people living with HIV
   Many thanks for the comment. We have removed this as suggested.

2. In page-35, the abbreviation ‘PLWHA’ is introduced for the first time and without expansion. I suggest removing that abbreviation and use ‘people living with HIV’
   As indicated in the response to reviewer 1 (bullet point 9), we have addressed this by removing the acronym and replacing it with “people living with HIV”.

3. Another round of proof-reading may help. For example, in page 7 the capitalised word (below) should be ‘participate’ and not ‘participant’
   We have corrected this, thanks.

We very much hope that these changes make the paper suitable for publication in BMC Public Health Journal. Thank you for reconsidering this manuscript, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Wamoyi