Author's response to reviews

Title: Patterns of Condom use and associated factors among HIV positive clients in North Western Ethiopia: A comparative cross sectional study

Authors:

Estifanos Yalew (e.estifon@yahoo.com)
Desalegn T zegeye (zdesalegn@gmail.com)
Solomon Meseret (messisol@yahoo.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear reviewers,

We are very much grateful to receive such comments as it helps us to learn more and upgrade our knowledge on the issue. From these points the authors tried to reflect ideas on the following statements/concerns:

Rev. Statement 1: …… “Don’t refer to the IAS conference itself, I have provided many references,”

Authors reflection: we agreed that it is not recommended to use conference citation if published articles are available. So in the new version of the manuscript relevant ideas on the published and recommended articles from the reviewer’s is used as a reference instead of citing IAS conference.

Rev. Statement 2: “…. One very alarming result of their study is the proportion of sexually active respondents. Only 48.9% of the people reported to be sexually active. It is really few and we can see that the proportion is not higher in people with ART ……”

Authors reflection: the authors also tried to think over what will be the reason for the lower proportion of sexually active respondents and ART experienced clients. So in the new version of the manuscript the authors made a subtopic in the discussion part focusing on sexual activity of the respondents and put justifications.

“…..Besides the quality of sexual education provision and strong level of auto stigmatization, the relatively high proportion of widowed and divorced clients in ART experienced than naive groups…..”

Rev. Statement 3: “…. Many HIV infected persons are now living longer, healthier and more sexually active lives? In this context, their data on sexuality on HIV infected persons is surprising. Explanations ......”

Authors reflection: Regarding this comments we adequately explained the finding in the discussion section of the manuscript in addition to the reviewer’s constructive ideas.

“….Besides the strong level of auto stigmatization, it may also be due to the delay presentation of clients and lower immunological and functional status when they start antiretroviral treatment. Therefore, a research primary focusing on sexual activity is highly recommended on this particular study subjects…..”

Rev. Statement 4: In the discussion section, further elaboration is needed. As an example, the authors can use systematically......

Authors reflection: the authors more clarify the difference as well the similarity between the findings of different studies instead of saying the difference/similarity is due to study setting, sampling technique and the like.

Rev. Statement 5: ……….. most of the respondents reported partner refusal and desire of having children as the main reason for inconsistent condom use ......
Authors reflection: the common reasons reported are written in detail and the authors also agree with the ideas of the reviewer’s and made adjustments as follows:

...... So efforts should be strengthen on sexual health intervention focusing on the couple than the individual and monitoring of client’s attitudes and practice on their follow up period......

Additionally,

- "in the background section (abstracts and article), you stated "an increasing number of sexual transmission may stem from those who know they are infected and engage in unprotected sex"......

Authors reflection: we already removed the above statement in the new version of the manuscript since it is outdated and recent findings do not in line with the idea. So the authors incorporate another idea in the new manuscript.

- “...... I think you should elaborate further on the discussion on reported reason for unprotected anal intercourse and be more practical on recommendations for action.”

Authors reflection: in this particular study all of the respondents practiced only vaginal sexual intercourse. Unprotected anal intercourse is not reported in this study. So we tried to write as follows:

“As all of the respondents practiced only vaginal sexual intercourse...............”

Many thanks!

The authors