Reviewer's report

Title: Facilitated HIV status disclosure for pregnant women and partners in rural Kenya: A qualitative study

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Reviewer: Kebede Deribe

Reviewer's report:

This is a qualitative study with in-depth interviews of 20 HIV positive pregnant women, 20 male partners of HIV positive women and two focus groups with 16 service providers. The study assessed the acceptability of three assisted disclosure approaches as a ground work for an intervention study. The approaches are: the first the health worker gives HIV positive woman advice on how to disclose their results and subsequently the woman disclose her results to her partners, the second approach is health facility couple counseling and the third is home based couple counseling. The finding indicated that many participants displayed a strong preference for couples HIV counseling and testing with mutual disclosure facilitated by a trained health worker. Both home and health facility based couple counseling were equally acceptable. PMTCT services are continued to be challenged due to lack of HIV positive disclosure to partners, therefore studies such as this are very important to find alternative ways of HIV status disclosure to sexual partners. The authors should be thanked for taking this forward.

Generally the manuscript is well designed and written. The title, the methods and the findings and the conclusions go along very well. I have few comments which could contribute to further improvement of the manuscript.

Abstract:

• The abstract is well written and reflects the findings with proper conclusions and recommendation. Minor comment is in the statement “Participants felt that that home-based support for HIV disclosure..” the word ‘that’ is repeated.

• In the conclusion “Home-based facilitated disclosure could serve as an effective method to assist women and men with safe disclosure of HIV status.” Should be rephrased to reflect only acceptability. The study did not assessed safety and effectiveness of the method. These could be assessed in the future planned intervention.

• The introduction is well written and gives reasonable background for the study.

• The method is well written and contains all the details needed for describing the work. Including how the services providers and HIV positive women were selected would improve the clarity.

• The discussion is well written except is overstretched towards promoting home based disclosure. The authors should be explicit in recommending this mostly in line with Home Based Hive Counseling and Testing.
• The Author’s contributions should be corrected according to the journal’s guideline. Stating that all authors reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests