Author's response to reviews

Title: Older HIV-infected individuals present late and have a higher mortality: Brighton, UK cohort study

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Version: 3 Date: 17 February 2013

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Title: Older HIV-infected individuals present late and have a higher mortality: Brighton, UK cohort study

I have addressed the issues raised by the reviewers in the order they were presented. The article is also about 400 words shorter.

Reviewer: Ruth Smith

Authors' comments:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Revised
2. I agree that the text is hard to follow, so I have taken it out as it does not add much to the paper
3. This has been moved to the section discussing mortality
4. Removed
5. No data on time of arrival within the UK but I have referenced a recent Health Protection Agency report suggesting an increasing proportion of heterosexual transmission occurring within the UK
6. Removed
7. I have revised the sentence

Minor Essential Revisions

1. This is now present in the paper
2. Addressed

Discretionary Revisions

1. I feel either would suffix but “early diagnosis” most often used.

Reviewer: Margaret May

Authors' comments:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. This is a very helpful suggestion. Reclassification as suggested gave more consistent results. See table 1.
2. Addressed under “characteristics of study participants” and discussed briefly in the discussion section.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Addressed
2. Sex used consistently
Discretionary Revisions

1. Acknowledged
2. Genuinely “other”. Refers to Asian/Oriental ethnicity
3. No robust data on this available
4. Marie Helleberg’s paper referenced
5. There was only one death occurring within one year of presentation in individuals with CD4 >350 cells/mm$^3$ with a mortality rate of 1.45 per 1000 pyrs (95% CI: 0.20-10.27) and 23 deaths in those with CD4<350 with a mortality rate 35.51 per 1000 pyrs (95% CI: 23.60-53.44). Results not included in manuscript.
6. Addressed
7. Reduced amount of results in text which are presented in the table. Conclusion also revised.