Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of life in individuals living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa

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Reviewer: Joseph Sempa

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The authors describe health related quality of life in individual living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa. They highlight the impact of ART in improving the self-rated health state of individuals with HIV/AIDS and therefore the need to put people quickly of ART to improve their health.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In the abstract, the authors mentioned results of Odds Ratios from a multivariate analysis. They are supposed to be reported as Adjusted Odds Ratios because at multivariable you have made adjustments of other variables.
2. The authors need to present a case for using the cutoff of 200 cells/µl as opposed to 350 cells/µl or 500 cells/µl because 200 cells/µl is an old cutoff.
3. In the analysis plan, the authors said that all the variables except waist to hip ratio were normally distributed. Why then do they use median and inter-quartile ranges instead of the mean?
4. The authors need to cross check the p-values they got in some sections and confirm whether they are correct. Under subheading comparison of health related quality of life outcomes by ART status, the first sentence in the second paragraph the authors had median and IQR of two groups that were clearly overlapping but the P-value was statistically significant (P=0.0027) which I find is quite unusual. Cross check also other P-values for the score.
5. The authors presented counter intuitive results by saying “…those unemployed were 4.76 times more likely to have a higher EQ-5D VAS score than those with some source of income…” please cross check with table 4 and also how this was coded to ensure that you are presenting the correct results.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. There are some typos in the paper so the authors are advised to read through it and make the necessary changes.
2. You need to add a reference to the second last sentence in the second last paragraph of the background that talks about increase in the CD4 count threshold.
- Discretionary Revisions

1. The authors are requested to see if there is a difference if the score if they used a CD4 count threshold of 350 cells/µl.

2. The authors should consider adding to their study limitations generalizability of their findings due to the CD4 count initiation threshold used in this study

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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’ below