Author's response to reviews

Title: Mortality and loss-to-follow-up during the pre-treatment period in an antiretroviral therapy programme under normal health service conditions in Uganda.

Authors:

Barbara Amuron (barbara_amuron@mrcuganda.org)
Geoffrey Namara (namsqfr@yahoo.com)
Josephine Birungi (birungijophine@yahoo.com)
Christine Nabiyo (Nabiryoc@tasouganda.org)
Jonathan Levin (jonathan.levin@mrcuganda.org)
Heiner Grosskurth (heiner.grosskurth@mrcuganda.org)
Alex Coutinho (acoutinho@idi.co.ug)
Shabbar Jaffar (shabbar.jaffar@lshtm.ac.uk)

Version: 5 Date: 30 July 2009

Author's response to reviews:

Thank you for your most recent email. I have provided more details in the background of the abstract. It now reads:

Background:

In many HIV programmes in Africa, patients are assessed clinically and prepared for antiretroviral treatment over a period of 4-12 weeks. Mortality rates following initiation of ART are very high largely because patients present late with advanced disease. The rates of mortality and retention during the pre-treatment period are not well understood. We conducted an observational to determine these rates.