Reviewer's report

Title: Contraceptive use and Unmet need for Family Planning among HIV Positive Women on Antiretroviral Therapy in Kumasi, Ghana

Version: 1 Date: 30 April 2014

Reviewer: Frank Kaharuza

Reviewer's report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. Background
  Dual protection and dual methods for HIV infected women is a recommended practice that should be described for this paper. This will help the readers understand the critical role of condom use among the HIV infected individuals and perhaps explain the high condom use

Methods
  The methods section lack information on the data collected- and how it was managed- the authors should tell us what data was collected- and how it was manipulated

Results
  Main outcome: contraceptive use: It is important to show what the contraceptive method mix is for all the participants. Table 8 only shows the method mix for those that no fertility desire. Unless the readers understand the method mix in this population it will be assess contraceptive prevalence

Are the contraceptive methods used mutually exclusive. In the HIV population we need to understand if dual methods are being used- and are they also being promoted. The prevalence of Dual method use should also be presented if it was collected. Figure 1 presents the distribution of methods used but it will be important to include dual methods

Reported Partner desire for children.: The author should clarify respondent and partner desire. There are four potential outcome: Both Partner and respondent desire children, Partner desires respondent doesn’t, respondent desires partner doesn’t, and both don’t desire- currently you report 53.5 respondent desire children 54.6% partners desire children- but no information on discordant desires

Limitations
  Please clarify that partner use is reported by the respondent. It is therefore important to consider this as a limitation of the study- since condom use is recommended in HIV positive individual and the response on condom use could be high because of social desirability

Did the authors collect information on education? This would have been desirable information to have since education has a role to play in uptake of
contraceptive services. If it wasn’t collected then this should be mentioned in the limitations.

Any comment on the wide confidence intervals seen in the results could be included given the small sample size.

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

• Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

Methods

Using a design effect of 1 is similar to no design effect? Since you used SRS, you don’t need to include the design effect in the sentence.

How did you define previous STI that would give you a high STI prevalence among respondents? Please include in the methods section.

Tables: Table structure: there are many tables presented and some of the tables can be merged for example tables 5, 6, 7 present data on association of marital status and contraceptive use.

Results

In text results for clarity it may be necessary to state the denominator of interest in presenting some of these results- for example. “Among those with current sexual partners (PROVIDE THE N), only 3.2% of the respondents indicated a partner STI during the one year.

• Discretionary Revisions

Methods

The sentence on ethics can be revised to improve readability “data collection was between December 2012 and March 2013” and “Participation was voluntary and followed the receipt of informed consent”.

Discussion – you opinion on the mean age and “

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests