Reviewer’s report

Title: Hmw: total adiponectin ratios are low in HIV-infected women receiving protease inhibitors

Version: 2
Date: 11 September 2014
Reviewer: John Koethe

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Last sentence of abstract states HMW:TA may be a “more sensitive marker of insulin resistance” is unclear, I assume authors mean more sensitive than HMW or TA alone? This is based mostly on adjusted QUICKI model, so rephrase to be more clear.

2. Intro. Authors mention d4T and AZT associated with lipodystrophy, but ddI is as well

3. There is a general move away from “d-drugs” and AZT towards TDF/3TC as the NRTI component of ART in many countries in Africa. Would mention as a limitation that there was not a non d-drug arm

4. A major contributor to lipodystrophy on ART is total duration of treatment. Would add interquartile ranges to median values of treatment duration and add this information to Table 1 (compare across groups)

5. Similar to above, peripheral lipoatrophy and central lipohypertrophy contribute to IR via different mechanisms, lack of method to quantify VAT / SAT should be mentioned as a major limitation of the study

6. Would like to see sensitivity analysis confirming that the adjusted model results remain once model adjusted for treatment duration – model will be overfit, but if results significantly different would need to explore further

7. Would include some comment on why HMW:TA might be more closely associated with QUICKI than HMW or TA alone, while for HOMA all three measures remained statistically associated after adjusting for BMI

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Title: need to define “HMW”

2. First sentence methods – is it “institutional” or “informed” consent?

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