Reviewer's report

Title: HIV/AIDS status disclosure increases Public Health benefits (Support, behavioral change and HIV prevention) in the long term: A case for an Urban Clinic Kampala, Uganda

Version: 3 Date: 22 May 2013

Reviewer: Soludo B Eze

Reviewer's report:

I declare that I have no competing interest

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:

Reviewer's Report

Title:

HIV/AIDS status disclosure increases Public Health benefits in the long term: A case for an Urban Clinic in Kampala, Uganda

Introduction

The manuscript has received a tremendous improvement in content and structure. This second revision has become much clearer with the arguments strengthened. I find the title of the paper very interesting as nondisclosure has remained one of the major problems in the fight against HIV prevention in Africa.

However, there are some areas that need to be strengthened more in order to put the work in a better shape.

Major compulsory revision

Method section

Selection of participants and sample

1. What are the criteria for selecting your study sample?
Details of how recruitment was conducted and by whom? And who chose not to
participate and why
2. Are the information from the study sample enough? Justify why you ended data collection
3. Think you need a stronger reason for your age selection rather than the stipulation of the Ugandan Youth policy. This is because the authors have age 35 as the cut off whereas they had over 35 yrs in the sample

Data Analysis
4. How were themes derived from the data - inductive of deductive method?

Result section
5. Pls there should be a short summary of the theme which will be followed by a few number of quotes to buttress the theme. The use of quotes without source as used in almost all the themes is not acceptable,
6. P11, para 1, line 5- the example business as usual should be expunged while you restructure the sentence to give a clearer picture of the point you are making
7. In page 11 the authors said that there were three main themes derived from the results. What about the other last two themes – do men and women differ ............., and Influence of disclosure recipients........... Are these not parts of the themes, if they are, they should be included in the themes as reported in P11
8. See also P.20. para 1. All those quotes without sources have to be reconsidered

Minor Essential Revisions
Result
9. See p.18, first quote, where a HIV patient is disclosing to another HIV patient. Is this acceptable? What do you expect in the response?

Discretionary Revisions
Abstract
10. See Result section sixth line – Even then ..........that statement needs to be moved to discussion section with a reference to support it

Background
7. See para 1 line 3-..... and the one who ...........with their HIV status and illness. Pls check if there is an agreement in the underlined pronouns
8. See last para line 3 - females tend to experience........ such as physical and sexual assault . Pls need to know how sexual assault can be a serious consequence of disclosure
9. P.5 para 1, line 9 – 11. Need to restructure the sentences
10. P6 line 2, language correction- omission
11. P. 6 Second para last two lines- check for language correction
12. There are other places where you have these language corrections

Ethical Consideration
13. P.10. para 3, line 6- all interviews were conducted in a private room can be moved to quality assurance
14. Line 2-4 should be restructured for easier understanding

General
15. While the study continued to emphasize on the importance of disclosure and its benefits, it is also important to balance the argument with the potential risks. The point being made here is that the risks of disclosure is still with us and is still causing a lot of problems in the family, and affecting social network. This study should fully recognize this and solicit for institutional mechanisms that can mitigate these potential risks in disclosure so that infected patients will be willing to disclose their sero status. If there is institutional protection not just in principle for people who disclose their status in the communities and villages, that too will contribute to increase in disclosure rate

Level of interest
An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
'I declare that I have no competing interests' below

What next?
Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions