Reviewer's report

Title: Synbiotic therapy decreases microbial translocation and inflammation and improves immunological status in HIV-infected patients: a double-blind randomized controlled pilot trial

Version: 3 Date: 27 June 2012

Reviewer: Kingsley Chidozie Anukam

Reviewer's report:

General comment
The authors made an attempt to confirm previous studies by other authors. There is need for an alternative intervention to help restore the microbiota of HIV infection individuals.

Specific comments
Methods
Ethics Approval and Study design
1. The authors should explain the rationale for using synbiotic 2000.
2. The authors should provide evidence showing the 4 bacterial strains contained in the synbiotic are proven probiotics?

Real-Time qPCR of Synbiotic Bacterial strains in stool DNA
1. The authors claimed to have used standard curve for each of the four lactobacilli strains? but only 2 lactobacillus species are present in the synbiotic 2000. (Lactobacillus paracasei subsp paracasei 19 and Lactobacillus plantarum 2362.

Design of primers
1. The authors should also explain why they used four lactobacilli 16S rRNA gene sequences. They should separate the lactobacilli from Leuconostoc mesenteroides and Pediococcus pentosaceus

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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