Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prevalence of sexually transmitted infections among pregnant women with known HIV status in northern Tanzania.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 3 November 2008

**Reviewer:** Per Bergsjø

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In Material and Methods, the population of Moshi should be mentioned, as well as the names of the two primary health care clinics (they are named in the Acknowledgements). How common is antenatal care attendance in Moshi? Is your study population representative of the pregnant population in Moshi urban? What is the approximate ratio of your study sample to the total birthing population of Moshi? Table 2 is a comparison of incidence rates between 1999 and 2002 - 2004 in the same clinics. The total study group in 1999 was only 176 women. Was that a representative group? Please elaborate on the 1999 study.

Why did you choose women in the third trimester? Why not at the first antenatal care visit? Had some of them been examined and treated for STD before (in the same pregnancy)?

The first paragraph in Results gives the composition of the study group. Could some of this information be tabulated for easier understanding?

Abbreviations should be spelled out in the Abstract (when first mentioned).

The difference between STIs and RTIs in the manuscript is the addition of bacterial vaginosis in the latter. Is it possible to simplify the text by using one acronym, with a short explanation about the difference?

On ethical approval: the "Norwegian Ethical Committee" is not an official name. Please give the appropriate name (call the Secretary of the Sout-East regional committee). "Permission for the study" should be replaced by "Approval ..", at least for the Norwegian clearance.

Spelling: on page 5: "gram-stained" should read "Gram-stained".

On page 6: "1st pregnancy" should be "first pregnancy".

Discussion: "The findings of thes study shows .." is cumbersome. Rephrase and shorten.

Page 7: ". .. genital infection aetiology.." Would "spectrum" be better? ". .. considering this was .." Add "that" after considering.

"Studies have also suggested.." Studies hardly suggest anything, but they may "indicate".

Page 8: "presumptive treatment" and "presumptive disease" (the latter from the reference title) are new terms to me. Shoudl they be elaborated on?

Page 9: "Efforts to expand HIV-counseling ..." What is the official Tanzanian
policy today, and is it being followed?
Reference no. 24: My name has been wrongly spelt.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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. I know most of the authors personally, but do not think that this invalidates my objectivity.