Reviewer's report

Title: Mental health outcomes in HIV and childhood maltreatment: a systematic review.

Version: 1 Date: 20 October 2011

Reviewer: Sadik Khuder

Reviewer's report:

Major

The conclusion of the study “Childhood maltreatment may lead to significant adult psychopathology and poorer adherence to antiretroviral medications in HIV-infected individuals” is not well justified by the presented results and the discussion. Most of the results section was devoted to methodological problems. The findings need to be presented and discussed for each design. Also, the number of studies with particular outcome needs to be mentioned for each design. Finally, I am not convinced that a stratified meta-analysis by design is not feasible.

Minor

Table 1 is too long and difficult to follow. The information need to abstracted and presented by study design.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests