Reviewer's report

Title: Safety of licensed vaccines in HIV-infected persons: a systematic review protocol

Version: 3, Date: 15 July 2014

Reviewer: Deepak Dr. Chawla

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Major compulsory revision:

1. Abstract: Background section can be shortened. For example lines like "The principle of effective immunization against potentially life-threatening infections is by induction of pathogen-immunity." can be deleted.

Main text:

2. In the revised version authors plan to evaluate safety profile of vaccines in HIV infected subjects. How RCTs and cRCTs will be used? Do authors plan to include RCTs comparing vaccination versus no vaccination arms of RCTs among HIV infected subjects? If there are no such trials how authors plan to compare the event rates among HIV infected subjects if rates in HIV uninfected are not studied. This issue is also relevant as plan of analysis is focused on comparisons in two arms.

3. In my view more data may be available from ecological studies. For example what are vaccination adverse events in high HIV prevalence versus low HIV prevalence populations.

4. Do authors plan to assess safety profile of re-vaccination strategies or only primary vaccination schedules?

5. Some sections of background can be removed e.g. Page 4 para 4 last 2 lines (starting with Furthermore..); Page 6 para 2.

6. Primary objective is repeated as last line of background and then as a bullet point.

7. Table 1 seems to be irrelevant once effectiveness objective has been dropped.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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