Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of Malaria and Anaemia among HIV infected pregnant women receiving Co-trimoxazole prophylaxis- A cross sectional study in One District in Tanzania.

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Reviewer: Alexandre Manirakiza

Reviewer’s report:

Cotrimoxazole (CTM) is well known as an antibacterial drug but less as an antimalarial. There are increasingly reports on the impact of CTM on malaria but few data are available in pregnant women. There is still a need of studies providing data on the clinical implications of CTM prophylaxis in this category of population. Hence, some studies are actually designed (e.g. cross-sectional studies and clinical trials) to assess the effect on this drug. The purpose of this cross-sectional study reported here was to assess the prevalence of malaria and anemia and the associated factors in pregnant women infected with HIV in Kinondoni municipalities, Tanzania.

The following are some of the concerns which I raise about this manuscript which should be clarified:

A. Minor Essential Revisions
1-Throughout the article, we find the word spacing errors, (e.g. “avoidsulpha” should be “avoid sulpha”; “policysince2011” should be “policy since 2011” etc.) that should be reviewed.

2-Abstract: It seems to me that the number of keywords is high; I suggest “cotrimoxazole, malaria, anemia, pregnant women”

3-Suggest revise the objective of the study as follows: the main objective consisted to “evaluate the prevalence of malaria, anaemia” and then, they should state that “secondly, they assessed the associated factors among HIV infected pregnant women receiving co-trimoxazole prophylaxis….”

4-Methods: “anemia (hemoglobin11g/dl)” that should “anemia (hemoglobin<11g/dl)”

5-The study period in the abstract, methods and results is not the same; please review.

6-Table 2: Please review the percentages.

B. Major Compulsory Revisions
1-Background: it is not easy to the lecturer to find the interest of the paragraph on malaria rapid tests, suggest dilating it; or at least putting it in the logic of rational of this study.

2-Methods (Study population): Authors should precise how was made the sample
3-Methods: The authors need to be precise on criteria of inclusion and non-inclusion. Stating that “Pregnant women with conditions like haematological disorders e.g. sickle cell disease, vaginal bleeding and mental disorders were excluded in the study” seems less specific.

4-Results: The authors stated that they have collected the data on iron supplementation; this data should be considered in the analysis.

5-Discussion: comparison of the effect of a strategy based on data from a cross-sectional study has limitations (there could be residual confounding from unmeasured factors). The authors should discuss some of these limitations.

C. Discretionary Revisions
1-Methods (Study design and area): what is the burden of malaria in Kinondoni municipalities?

2-Methods: The authors stated that “The targeted subjects were HIV infected pregnant women receiving co-trimoxazole prophylaxis for more than four weeks”. Why the authors chose this cut-off at more than four weeks for CTM prophylaxis?

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