Reviewer's report

**Title:** Profile of blood cell abnormalities of treatment-naive HIV patients in the Yaounde University Teaching Hospital, Cameroon.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 14 April 2014

**Reviewer:** Carol Briggs

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions.**

Table 1. Throughout the paper it is quoted that anaemia is the cause of mortality in HIV patients but Haemoglobin does not appear in the table! The most common used term for reticulocytes stained on a normal blood film is polychromasia not polychromatophilia. Where are the reticulocyte counts? It is stated they were done.

Discussion. Racial differences in White Cell count and Neutrophil counts are not discussed and will influence results. Even more importantly any patient with Malaria will affect the results. These have to be excluded or a separate group and shown in results.

Normal ranges are given in line 104, but haemoglobin is different for males and females.

**Minor Essential Revisions.**

This is well written and sums up which we know on a daily basis in the laboratory. I have some comments.

Abstract: Results section, qualitatively is written twice. Should one be qualitative? The same sentence is written in the conclusion of the abstract but correctly. Delete one.

It should be mentioned early on that a point of care analyser was used, I was wondering why manual reticulocytes were performed. Which HumaCount analyser was used for the study and you should state the manufacturer, with address.

Methods. How long was it before the sample was analysed after venesection. Hypochromasia is used as a term but later hypochromia, be consistent, the latter better.

How were the CD4 counts performed?

Line 100. How many of these variables were taken from the full blood count and how many from an examined blood film? No mention of blood films are mentioned in the manuscript.

Results. Lines 112-113 belong in the methods section.

to be excluded or a separate group and shown in results.
Much of the discussion is a repeat of the results, first paragraph is all repeat. Can be shortened.

HAART is not defined.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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