Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of anemia before and after initiation of antiretroviral therapy among HIV infected patients at Black Lion Specialized Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: a cross sectional study

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Prevalence of anemia before and after initiation of antiretroviral therapy among HIV infected patients at Black Lion Specialized Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: a cross sectional study

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We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all reviewers and editor of this manuscript for their constructive comments which are extremely helpful to improve this manuscript. Here are point-by-point responses for the reviewers and editor comments. We have tried to provide a detailed response to each comment and describe the amendments that have been made to the manuscript text. The exact place in the manuscript text where these amendments can be viewed is indicated using sections, page numbers and line numbers. Additionally the changes to the manuscript are indicated in the manuscript text by highlighting using yellow color.

I) Response to the Editor comments:

1) Discussion section, page 12, line 261-262: The lack of a healthy control group is mentioned as a limitation in the discussion.

II) Response for the reviewer reports:
A) Rupak Shivakoti (Reviewer 5):

1) Result section; Page 8, table 3 and page 9, table 4: Multivariable logistic regression analysis was performed to obtain the adjusted odds of being anemic by various characteristics at baseline and after 6 months following initiation of ART.

2) Result section; Page 8, table 3 and page 9, table 4: Even though BMI is standard available information, majority of patients at baseline (before treatment) had no data on BMI, which is mentioned as a limitation in the discussion section. Since baseline information of the study subjects were collected from their medical records, we couldn’t include data about BMI in table 3. But after treatment, data on BMI values were collected and it is included in table 4.

B) Alauldeen Mudhafar Zubair, M.D. (Reviewer 6):

1) Discussion section, page 12, line 261-263: Dear reviewer, thank you for your comments. The lack of a healthy control group is mentioned as a limitation in the discussion section.