Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of cytopenias in both HAART and HAART naïve HIV infected adult patients in Ethiopia: a cross sectional study

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COVER LETTER FOR SUBMISSION OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

BMC Hematology

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Prevalence of cytopenias in both HAART and HAART naïve HIV infected adult patients in Ethiopia: a cross sectional study

Tamirat E Fekene

First I would like to pass my deepest gratitude for reviewing the manuscript and your invaluable comments and suggestions.

I am enclosing herewith a revised research manuscript entitled “Prevalence of cytopenias in both HAART and HAART naïve HIV infected adult patients in Ethiopia” for publication in Journal of BMC Hematology for possible evaluation.

All the changes made in the manuscript are highlighted in yellow.
A point-by-point description of the changes made in the revised manuscript:

Reviewer number: 1

Reviewer's report:

Kindly add values of MCV, MCH, MCHC mean, range and standard deviation for the three groups of anemia mentioned in figure 1: normochromic, macrocytic and hypochromic.

Pattern of anemia was classified based on MCV and MCH values. Per your suggestion we included values of MCV and MCH; and Per reviewer 3 Pattern of anemia among the subjects is displayed in pie chart instead of bar graph.

Reviewer number: 2

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed the revised version of the manuscript. The authors sufficiently responded to my comments, and for my point of view, the manuscript can be accepted for publication in its current form.

Reviewer number: 3

1. The article is still lengthy and needs to be compressed

We shortened the abstract, background and the method part. Now the manuscript appears much shorter and readable. We modified and simplified Table 1 and table 2 per your suggestion. We also tried to condense the description of the content of tables.
2. Pattern of anemia among the subjects - which is showed in bar graph in the article, is better to be displayed in pie chart.

Per your suggestion Pattern of anemia among the subjects is displayed in pie chart instead of bar graph and per reviewer 1 we included values of MCV and MCH.

3. Bone marrow examination is important for hematologic system abnormalities. Are there any subjects underwent a bone marrow puncture? And the results?

Yes, we believe bone marrow examination would have been important. Unfortunately, due to resource limitation none of our study subjects underwent bone marrow puncture.

With Kind Regards,

Tamirat Edie Fekene