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.

A point-by-point description of the changes made in the revised manuscript:
Revision 3

Editor Comments:

1- Please indicate the reason for obtaining verbal rather than written consent. Please also clarify whether the ethics committee approved this form of consent or whether it was in line with national regulations (if so, please provide a reference) in the "Ethics approval and consent to participate" section.

It was meant to say informed consent, it was by mistake and we are sorry for the confusion. The Jimma University institutional review board (IRB) requires a written consent to be obtained in any study where human subjects are involved. Accordingly, The study subjects were provided with a written consent form in the local language before study enrollment.

2- Please upload English language versions of all questionnaires developed specifically for use in this study as additional files. If the questionnaires are not yours or are already published by you, please supply references and/or links to them. Please also detail the questionnaire validation procedures.

We developed our own questionnaire for this study. It was constructed with socio-demographic characteristics, clinical data, medication data and immunohematologic data. Pretesting of the questionnaires was done in a sample of 20 HIV-infected adult patients attending ALERT Hospital, located in the capital Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before the actual study begun. The collected data was checked for completeness and internal consistency. Necessary correction of questionnaire was made accordingly after the pre-test. This subjects were not included in the actual study result. Per your request I have uploaded the English language version of the questionnaires as additional files.

3. Please ensure that all tables are cited within the text.

We have included all the tables in the manuscript according to their order.
4. Figures should be provided as separate files, and each figure of a manuscript should be submitted as a single file.

Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. If titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them.

Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.

The pie-chart describing the pattern of anemia is the only figure in this research; and it has been submitted separately. We provided the title after the References under the heading ‘Figure Legends’.

5. We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:


And

"Hematologic abnormalities among children on Haart, in Jimma University Specialized Hospital, Southwestern Ethiopia” (2009) Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences, DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ejhs.v19i2.69420

And

"Anemia among adult HIV patients in Ethiopia: a hospital-based cross-sectional study” (2017) HIV/AIDS - Research and Palliative Care, DOI: https://doi.org/10.2147/HIV.S121021

This overlap mainly exists in the Background and Discussion sections.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work.

Please rephrase these sections to minimise overlap.
As you have pointed, there were some textual overlap with other previously published works. This was only meant to express some ideas the research shares with previously published papers. However, as you have suggested we completely re-phrased those sections.

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

We have uploaded a final, clean version of the manuscript, tables and figure.

With Kind Regards,

Tamirat Edie Fekene