Reviewer’s report

Title: ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY IMPROVES SURVIVAL AMONG TB-HIV CO-INFECTED PATIENTS WHO HAVE CD4+ T-CELL COUNT ABOVE 350CELLS/mm³

Version: 0 Date: 25 Apr 2016

Reviewer: Amitabh Suthar

Reviewer's report:

Introduction


Methods

(1) Why wasn't BMI included as a variable in the models? Weight and height are routinely available in patient charts and published literature indicates it is a driver of mortality risk in people with TB. See:


(2) Unclear whether model included time-updated CD4 cell counts or solely baseline value. Please clarify.

(3) Treating all LTFU as being alive and then as being dead are indeed the two extremes. But the reported values might be best to focus on an imputation based on published literature that has traced outcomes of PLHIV LTFU. See: Brinkhof MW, Pujades-Rodriguez M, Egger M. Mortality of patients lost to follow-up in antiretroviral treatment programmes in resource-limited settings: systematic review and meta-analysis. PLoS One. 2009 Jun 4;4(6):e5790. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0005790.
Results

-Differences in follow-up. Cohort on ART followed approximately two years longer than cohort off ART. Do the data underestimate mortality rates in TB patients off ART? How was this managed analytically?

Discussion


Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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