Reviewer’s report

Title: Virological failure reduced with HIV-serostatus disclosure, extra baseline weight and rising CD4 cells among HIV-positive adults in Northwestern Uganda

Version: 1 Date: 30 May 2016

Reviewer: Mauro Zaccarelli

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript, entitled "Virological failure reduced with HIV-serostatus disclosure, extra baseline weight and rising CD4 cells among HIV-positive adults in Northwestern Uganda."

analyzed data from patients treated with standard anti-retroviral treatment, in order to assess virological failure at first line therapy. The main finding of the analysis is related to disclosure of HIV-serostatus that is associated with better outcome of antiretroviral therapy. The result, if not particularly original, is interesting, however data reported are not clear and need re-assessment.

Comments

Table 1. The table reports the general characteristics of patients include. The total reports is 248 (should be 383). The sum of values reported in the column in some cases is not 383, suggesting that some cases have missing values, if so, they should be indicated in the table.

Results. This section is long and somewhat difficult to read. I suggest to reduce I in size, removing values (numbers, percentages HR) that are already reported in tables and shortening the text. The result section should be also divided in concise sub-sections with title (i.e. general characteristics, incidence of failure …).

Table 2 and Hazard Ratios. Only significant variables are reported. My suggestion is to report in one table all variables analyzed with total and incidence ratios, including those in table 1 (religion, occupation, tribe…. and table 2 (WHO stage, CD4 count …). Moreover, table 2 should report the HR for all the variables (religion, occupation and other factors included) and aHR for significant variable included in multivariable analysis. The way of managing missing data, if present, should be also indicated in the text

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.

Yes

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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