**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Five-year trends in treatment changes in an adult cohort of HIV/AIDS patients in Ghana: A retrospective cohort study

**Authors:**

Daniel Ankrah (danielankrah@kbth.gov.gh)
Margaret Lartey (Malart38@yahoo.com)
Aukje Mantel-Teeuwisse (A.K.Mantel@uu.nl)
Hubert Leufkens (h.g.m.leufkens@uu.nl)

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Comment

1) In table 2 the aHR of treatment change with TDF/3TC/EFV is lower as compared to the reference group AZT/3TC/EFV however this is in contradiction with the text on page 9 reporting "There was no significant difference between a tenofovir combination HAART and the reference HAART (p-value of 0.252 and 0.542 for TDF/3TC/EFV and TDF/3TC/NVP respectively)." This should be addressed. The fact that TDF-based regimens have lower rates of substitutions is relevant and should be discussed (if the data reported in table 2 are correct).

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK ALL YOUR FINDINGS AND CORRECT ALL POTENTIAL DISCREPANCIES

Response

The statement on page 9 has been revised. It now reads:

“A tenofovir combination HAART (especially with efavirenz) in this study looked more protective against treatment change compared to the reference HAART (independent p-value of 0.013 and 0.358 for TDF/3TC/EFV and TDF/3TC/NVP respectively)“.

An explanation to the above statement has been given in the discussion on page 13, line 10 onwards.
All other findings have been checked and amended.

Comment

2) Figures 1-3. In the X-axis include "time from treatment initiation (months)" instead of follow up. Figure 1 Y-axis title should be "cumulative probability of substituting first-line regimen". Figure 2 and 3 Y-axis title should be "Cumulative probability of not substituting first-line regimen"

Response

These changes have all been done.

Comment

4) Still in some parts of the manuscript and table 2 ETC should be corrected with 3TC and stavudine spelled correctly

Response

The corrections have all been done.