Reviewer’s report

Title: How newly diagnosed HIV-positive men who have sex with men look at HIV/AIDS - validation of the Chinese version of the Revised Illness Perception Questionnaire

Version: 0 Date: 09 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Gregory Phillips

Reviewer’s report:

I believe this is an interesting manuscript, and one that could be of interest to the readers of this journal. However, I have a number of concerns that need to be addressed:

- OVERALL

  -- This manuscript requires extensive editing to fix grammar and spelling errors throughout.

  -- N-MSM is not a standard abbreviation, and I would recommend against introducing a new acronym into the HIV prevention lexicon.

- INTRODUCTION

  -- Page 6, Line 6 - what is meant by "newly HIV infectors?"

  -- Page 6, Line 9 (and elsewhere) - the standard terminology is "condomless," not "unprotected," so I recommend changing this throughout the manuscript.

  -- Page 6, Lines 14-15 - I disagree that there is little reported about how PLHIV view HIV. There is a substantial literature base focused on this topic that the authors should review and cite.

  -- Page 7, Line 10 (and elsewhere) - "homosexual" transmission is not an accurate term to use. Instead, say "MSM behavior" or something similar to indicate behavior, not identity.

  -- Page 7, Line 15 - what is meant by "adaptation process of HIV status?"

- METHODS

  -- Page 8, Line 18 - what reasons other than time fall under the category of "logistic reasons?"

- RESULTS

  -- It would be helpful to include a demographics table.
-- As mentioned early in this section, there are substantial differences in the composition of the study sample by demographics. These could affect the results of the factor analysis, particularly time since diagnosis. I recommend the authors look at whether the different factors are associated with these factors, similar to what was done with depression and PTG. This would be much more clarifying than the current analysis.

- DISCUSSION

-- Page 17, Line 21 - I disagree that alcohol and drug use are not associated with sexual behaviors. There is a substantial amount of research that has found a relationship between substance use and high risk sexual behavior.

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

Yes

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.