Reviewer’s report

Title: Anemia in People on Second Line Antiretroviral Treatment in Lilongwe, Malawi: a Cross-Sectional Study

Version: 0 Date: 06 Oct 2017

Reviewer: S Saravanan

Reviewer’s report:

1. In Abstract, background section. The sentence 'However there limited information on anemia' is to be changed to 'However there is limited information on anemia'

2. Abstract, background section. 'our objective was describe...' is to be changed to 'our objective was to describe...'

3. Abstract, Result section '17.5%, 13.8, and 1.9%...' should be replaced to '17.5%, 13.8%, and 1.9%...'

4. In methods section, split up on second-line ART regimen has to be given in numbers and details on first-line ART regimen is not required

5. In results section, 2nd paragraph. The author has mentioned, 'anemic participants were significantly younger and had been on second-line ART.....'. The results should accompany with numbers.

6. There is no need to mention the mean of hemoglobin in one statement and range in the other statement, can be clubbed together

7. Male participants had high Hb level than female participants, this information is repeated twice in results

8. Severe anemia was only seen in female participants - this information is repeated twice in results

9. In results section, percentages should accompany with number. eg. Prevalence of anemia in male participants is 15.7% and female is 43.6%, where are the numbers?

10. The author have concluded that, being underweight is the risk factor for anemia. This is not there in the result. Having BMI >=30 may be the reduced risk for anemia, as your result suggested. But this doesn't mean people who are underweight have more risk for anemia

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.

No

**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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