Author’s response to reviews

Title: Virologic suppression in response to antiretroviral therapy despite extensive resistance within HIV-1 reverse transcriptase after the first virologic failure

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Author’s response to reviews:

To Reviewer #1:

1. Authors ensure that all abbreviations are first defined at first use.

2. In the abstract: Line 20, we clarified whether the AVV> 36 months is total time on ARVs or time on rescue therapy

Introduction

1. Line 67: The sentence beginning with "However..... since 2001" does not make sense, we revised it

2. Line 23: we Clarified what is immune-troubling

3. Line 33: we revised, WHO guidelines recommend 1st line of 2NRTIS (t) and 1 NNRTI

4. Line 37: Sentence starting with " These factors does not read well, we revised

5. Line 41: What is ITRN MAR (t) we explained it.

Methodology

1. Less than 50 % of records were included in the analysis. How representative is this? we showed it
Results

1. Major Comment: Why were 59 records without MAR excluded yet they had resistance test results? This is an important source of bias in the study. We have included in the analysis.

2. Why did the authors use poison regression for cross-sectional data? We explained it.

3. The sub-heading "Factors associated with genotypic........" is not appropriate. We revised it to "Factors associated with MAR"

To Reviewer #2:

The main reason for treatment failure was presumably poor adherence, though this was analysed;
There was no information on medical records regarding other potential risk factors associated with resistance;

The dose used for efavirenz was 600mg.