Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Association between a Detectable HIV Viral Load and Non-Communicable Diseases Comorbidity in HIV positive adults on antiretroviral therapy in Western Cape, South Africa

Authors:

Susannah George (slg4g11@soton.ac.uk)
Nuala McGrath (N.McGrath@soton.ac.uk)
Tolu Oni (tolullah.oni@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk)

Version: 2 Date: 30 Mar 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Devoto,

We welcome the opportunity to revise and resubmit the paper. We have now addressed these minor comments as set out below.

Yours sincerely,

Tolu Oni
1. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your "Ethics and Consent to Participate" section. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.

RESPONSE: We have now confirmed that written consent was obtained from all participants.

2. Please clarify your statement on the availability of raw data. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. Alternatively, include a statement confirming raw data will be made available from the authors upon reasonable request. For example, "The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request."

RESPONSE: We have now added the following to the relevant section: “The datasets generated during the current study are not publicly available as they contain patient data and relevant permission was not requested in the participant consent forms. Anonymised and aggregated datasets are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.”

3. The individual contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section. Currently the individual contributions of Tolu Oni are not included.

Guidance and criteria for authorship can be found here:

http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

RESPONSE: We have edited this section as follows: “All authors contributed to the design of the study. SG collected the data and SG and NM analysed the data. SG, TO and NM contributed to the interpretation of the findings and drafting of the manuscript.”

4. Please remove any additional files you do not want published alongside your manuscript, including cover/response letters.
RESPONSE: This has been actioned.

5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

RESPONSE: This has been actioned.