Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cryptococcal antigenemia is associated with meningitis or death in HIV-infected adults with CD4 100-200 cells/mm3

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Editor Comments:

1. Please provide a Keywords section after your Abstract that includes three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article.

This has been added.

Abstract, Lines 35-36: “Keywords: HIV, Cryptococcal Meningitis, cryptococcal antigen, screening, opportunistic infections, sub-Saharan Africa”

2. Please add a "Conclusions" heading/section in your manuscript.

Thank you for this feedback. We have sectioned off the final portion the discussion and added the label “conclusions”.

Conclusions, Line 195-200: “Conclusions

In the subset of newly identified PLWH with a CD4 100-200 cells/mm3 in South Africa, serum CrAg positivity was observed in almost 2% of participants, and a positive CrAg result was
strongly associated with an increased risk of cryptococcal meningitis or death during a 12-month follow-up period. Raising the threshold for CrAg screening to 200 cells/mm³ could help reduce morbidity and mortality in PLWH in cryptococcus-endemic regions.”

3. Please provide a List of abbreviations after the Conclusions section. If abbreviations are used in the text, they should be defined in the text at first use and included in this list.

Thank you for this feedback. We have added a list of abbreviations.

4. Please clarify if you received written consent from participants in your "Consent for Publication" section.

5. In the Authors' Contribution section, please ensure that all Authors are included with their individual contributions in initial format.

Thank you for this feedback. We have clarified the language in the declarations section to reflect both of these comments.