Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability and validity of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression scale in screening for depression among HIV-infected and -uninfected pregnant women attending antenatal services in northern Uganda

Version: 1 Date: 10 July 2014

Reviewer: Dixon Chibanda

Reviewer's report:

This is an important paper that validates a tool that can be used by lay health workers in LMIC. The approach appears to be well thought through with regards the validation, however, there is little attempt to describe in detail the difference between women who are HIV+ against those who are HIV-. If the authors intend to describe the characteristics of the two sub groups (HIV+ and HIV-) this must be reflected in the results.

1. Major compulsory revisions:

The study looks at HIV+ and HIV- women, therefore, the table describing characteristics of participants should really be reflecting this. Suggest this table reflects characteristics of participants by HIV status. Table should have column for HIV+, HIV-, and P-values. The variables between these two groups have to be compared for level of significant and comment on differences.

2. Multivariate analysis will be better than bivariate for any comparison of multiple variables.

Minor

1. Line 122. How was data collected? What is the sampling frame? This should be described in the methods.

2. Line 69 First time Sub saharan Africa is mentioned should be followed by the abbreviation (SSA) which you use throughout the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests