Reviewer's report

Title: Factors Associated with Depression among Adolescents Living with HIV in Malawi

Version: 2 Date: 24 September 2015

Reviewer: Tsuyoshi Sasaki

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

Although, I have a few suggestions that should be addressed by the authors.

#1: In the sample description, the authors should provide probable information about which co-morbidities (especially anxiety disorders) existed except depression.

Excellent point. Unfortunately, we did not collect information on co-morbidities such as anxiety disorders or intellectual disability. We have now included this limitation in our discussion as follows:

“We also did not assess potential co-morbidities such as anxiety or intellectual disability.”

=>Thank you for your polite revise.

#2: In the sample description, is there data of intellectual disability co-morbidity?

As above.

=>Thank you for your polite revise.

#3: Would you tell us the rater who had a diagnosis? (A psychiatrist, a pediatrician, or a child psychiatrist?)

In Malawi there is only one practicing psychiatrist in the whole country. Clinical officers with specialized mental health training provide the majority of psychiatric care. To help ensure optimal administration, only clinicians with mental health training and over two years of experience in adolescent HIV care, were selected to undergo one week training in the administration of the CDRS-R. Interviewers received on-going supervision by a qualified mental health professional with expertise in adolescent depression (Clinical officer with a Bachelor of Science in Clinical Medicine specializing in Mental Health and a diploma in Psychiatry).

The following has been added to the methods section as follows:

“Clinician interviewers, with mental health training and over two years of experience in adolescent HIV care, were trained in the administration of the CDRS-R by a mental health clinical officer.”
Thank you for your polite correspondence.

In summary, the work is of good quality and the results convincing, and thus of high value to the community again.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests.