Reviewer’s report

Title: Incidence, prevalence and associated factors of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, among children exposed to maternal HIV, in Belgaum district, Karnataka, India

Version: 1 Date: 22 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Marta Andres Miguel

Reviewer's report:

The authors have replied to most of my comments and I recommend the paper for publication. I still have some minor comments:

Background:

Page 2 line 24: "Few studies have tried to demonstrate the risk of MTCT of HIV". Maybe assess / evaluate / study would be better than "demonstrate".

Page 2 line 57: "However, in the same year" would it not be "accordingly" or "indeed" more correct than "however" in this context?

Methods:

Page 3 line 52: I think that the information that the authors included to one of my previous questions: The results on breast feeding are captured at fixed intervals following delivery, usually within the first week after birth, between 6-10 weeks after delivery, 6-9 months after delivery and once every quarter 12 and until 24 months after delivery.

Should be incorporated into the manuscript. It is still not clear to me in the manuscript when the questionnaires about breastfeeding were done, and whether this information was collected together with the other information (socio-demographics, date of HIV testing…). Could the authors be more specific on this?

Page 4 line 44: Double blank space that should be removed.

Page 8 line 14: "ART within 90 days to prior to delivery". First "to" should be removed.
Discussion:

Page 8 line 33: "included all maternal HIV exposed children born during the years between 2011 and 2013". Please, include the setting were the study was performed.

Page 8 line 47: Use "%" instead of "percentage".

Page 9 line 1: Could the authors include the coverage in the other studies to discuss if this is a likely explanation for the difference in MTCT results?

Page 9 line 26: "In well-resourced settings, the complete avoidance of breastfeeding has been a major factor in reducing transmission and breastfeeding is not recommended for HIV-infected women." Could the authors provide a reference for this?

Page 12 line 1: "un-infected" or "uninfected"?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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