Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical and immunological failure among HIV positive adults taking first line Antiretroviral therapy in Dire Dawa, Eastern Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 21 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Awoke Tegegne

Reviewer's report:

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Starting from the positive side, the investigation includes lots of sample size in different health institutions in the study area.

Suggestions

1. List of patients in each health institutions are Sampling frames not sampling procedures, so the statement on page 5 line number 15 (sampling procedure) shall be replaced by sampling frame.

2. Since, Binary logistic regression model is one among others, the statement binary logistic regression models on page7, line number 10, shall be "binary logistic regression model was used"

3. The statement "Only 33 (15%) of the study subjects with failure were" seems incomplete, so it might be better to say "Only 33 (15%) of the study subjects with failure status were"

4. Usually, data are plural, but the author expressed data as singular (example, in the methods section, page 5, line number5.

5. Table3, page 12, line number 37 needs careful edition.

6. Page 13, line number 45 (Among patient identified as failure ) this also needs revision since this statement should be written as "Among patients identified as failure"
7. Generally the manuscript needs series language edition by language expertise?

Questions/ concerns raised in the manuscript

1. Since the study was cross sectional, why adherence level (poor adherent and good adherent percentage) at the time of survey not included in the descriptive part of Table2 in the investigation like other clinical characteristics?

2. Why the author used oldest version of the SPSS software (version 16)? Now days we have SPSS software version 23 and more recent version. If the data were analyzed using latest versions, there may be results different from existed in the paper. Therefore, I recommended using latest version of the software.

3. Why pre-testing was conducted outside the study area? As far as my knowledge is concerned, it should be tested within the study area (Data collection sub-section).

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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