Reviewer’s report

Title: PREVALENCE AND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DENTAL CARIES IN PATIENTS ATTENDING AN HIV CARE CLINIC IN UGANDA: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

Version: 0 Date: 06 May 2019

Reviewer: Oleh Andrukhov

Reviewer’s report:

In the present study, the prevalence of caries in the HIV infected population of Uganda was investigated. The study is well performed, but some issues can be still considered by Authors.

Abstract

Conclusion of the Abstract does not fit the stated aim. The aim was to determine the prevalence of caries in HIV patients, whereas conclusion is that caries prevalence is high among adults receiving HIV care.

General comments

In my view, the manuscript misses comparison with HIV free population. It is clear that the incidence of caries in HIV patients is higher compared to general population. However, it is questionable if such comparison is possible, because it is not clear if the education level and residence are representative for the general population.

It is questionable if the duration of ART therapy or time of diagnosis should be used. By reading the paper, it can be assumed that longer ART therapy results in worse oral health. However, this can be associated with longer time of HIV infection.

The term "infrequent" consumption of sugar containing beverages and snacks must be explained more in details. What is frequent, what is infrequent? Moreover, why only sugar containing beverages were considered? Consumption of any meal leads to delivery of carbohydrates, which can be further metabolized by acid producing oral bacteria.

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.

No
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:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors'
responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal