Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and predictors of Pap smear cervical epithelial cell abnormality among HIV-positive and negative women attending gynecological examination in cervical cancer screening unit at Debre Markos referral hospital, East Gojjam, Northwest Ethiopia

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

I am so glad to hear that our manuscript has accepted for publication in your journal.

I am very much pleased to have such wonderful reviewers who really did improve our manuscript quality. Dear Editor I hope hereafter it will not take long time to publish the paper online. As per the reviewer comment the document is corrected and indicated in a point by point fashion as follow.

Major compulsory revisions

Abstract 1. “prevalence of atypical squamous cells (ASC) undetermined significance, low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (SIL), high grade SIL, squamous cell carcinoma and ASC, cannot exclude high grade SIL were 5.1%, 3.8%, 4.1% and 1.0%, 0.0% respectively”.

This would be better written as “prevalence of atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS), low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (SIL), high grade SIL, squamous cell carcinoma and ASC, cannot exclude high grade SIL (ASCH) were 5.1%, 3.8%, 4.1% and 1.0%, 0.0% respectively”.

Response: authors thanks the reviewer and the comment is modified as per the suggestion

Background

1. “patients with HSIL and invasive lesions the stage of a cervical cancer is the most important factor in the selection of treatment modality”. This is not correct. Only patients with invasive lesions require staging (not patients with HSIL”).

Response: this is corrected accordingly

2. “Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer worldwide of which 80%
occurs in developing countries”. Is cervical cancer the second most common cancer in women or in general (men and women). Please specify. 
Response: it is specified for women

Study setting and design HIV test and CD4 count

1. “8mlwas”- space needed between 8ml and was
Response: it is done

Results 1. Some grammatical errors

“Women with (add in “a”) previous history of multiple lifetime sexual partners (more than two), were at high risk for developing ECA when compared to their counterparts with one or two sexual partner (AOR 3.2, 95% CI: 1.0#10, p=0.048). Early ages (should be “age”, not “ages”) at first sexual contact.
Response: these grammatic errors are corrected

Discussion 1. “Relatively concordant results on the prevalence of ECA among HIV-infected women were reported from Tanzania (17%) [31] and Thai (should be Thailand) (15.4 %)”
Response: corrected

Conclusion “parity greater than four times (delete the word “times),”
Response: deleted

Abbreviations The Bethesda System uses the term NILM-Negative for intraepithelial lesion/ malignancy. As Bethesda System terminology is used throughout the article, it is suggested that NILM (not NIL) be used throughout the text.
Response: thank you for your critical concern. For the reference is cited in all mentioned parts of the document, we only used epithelial cell abnormality stages only.

References There is still some inconsistent spacing in the references. These need to be carefully checked
Response: authors completely agreed with the reviewer comments and all space problems are corrected.

(1) Figure title and Legends:

Please include a "Figure Titles and Legends" section at the end of the manuscript (after References and before Tables). Please include Figure 1 title and legend in this section and remove the texts from the actual image. Please upload the Figure 1 image by itself as a image file.
Response: Figure title and Legend is separately described as per your suggestion.