Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment outcomes of patients who migrate for HIV care in the province of British Columbia, Canada, from 2003 to 2012: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 9 July 2015

Reviewer: Pilar Ramirez-Garcia

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Review of article « Treatment outcomes of patients who migrate for HIV care in the province of British Columbia, Canada, from 2003 to 2012: a retrospective cohort study »

Major compulsory revisions

The way the results were calculated should be explained. They do not match with table 2 (i.e. they “observed that in HAs 1, 4 and 5 between 10% and 17% of PLWH migrated to HA3 and for HA2 this proportion increased to 65%”. Those percentages are between 5% and 10% from HAs 1, 4 and 5 and 20% from HA 2 according to their table. They found that “in HA 3, 94% of its PLWH residents remained in the same HA for their care”. According to the table, 2,027 from 2,648 residents in HA 3 (76.5%) received care in this HA). Moreover, the results presented in table 2 (second table, line 482), In Migrants, Out Migrants, do not match with the results in the table 2 (first table, line 481). I think these results are inversed. Consequently, the migration rates should be recalculated. Then all results should be verified to avoid the mistakes in the interpretation. Discussion should be reworked from the correct results.

Minor essential revisions

The objective posed by the authors is well defined. However, the term “effect” should be replaced by “association” because it’s not possible to determine the casual relationship between migration and virologic suppression and mortality. The same revision should be done at the background (abstract and end of background). In the title the term treatment outcomes” should be replaced by “virologic suppression and mortality” because the association between mortality and treatment is not clear. In the abstract “health outcome” could replace the term “treatment outcomes”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest.