Reviewer’s report

Title: A meta-analysis of the performance of the PimaTM CD4 for point of care testing

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2015

Reviewer: Laurent BELEC

Reviewer’s report:

I have no major comments concerning this meta-analysis, which is indeed very well done.

The issues which could be raised are the following:
- The decreasing place of CD4 T cell count in developing countries for HIV monitoring. According to the new WHO (2013-revised) guidelines, the best marker to monitor HIV infection in resource-limited settings is currently the HIV(RNA) load, no more the CD4 T cell count. The only interesting (meaning operational) threshold evaluated by the authors is the CD4 T cell threshold to initiate the antireroviral treatment (e.g. 500 CD4 cells/ml); the others thresholds (e.g. 100 ou 350) are much less interesting to be considered.
- The meta-analysis shows clearly that around 10% of patients are in fact misclassified. The conclusion stating that "Pima CD4 for HIV ART eligibility at 500cells/µl threshold" should be obviously attenuated. In Western countries, the Pima assay would have been abandoned; thus it is OK for developing countries ???

Finally, I am not sure that a simple technical meta-analysis on a POC CD4 T cell count assay (although well carried out) enters in the scope of BMC Medicine.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competitive interest, and I am completely objective in my review on this interesting work, with some concerns as explained.