Reviewer’s report

Title: Growing up HIV-positive in Uganda: "psychological immunodeficiency?" A qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 31 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Jeffrey Grierson

Reviewer's report:

The study reports on a qualitative component of a study of mental health among children and adolescents living with HIV in Uganda.

The paper present a thoughtful and interesting consideration of the social and relational aspects of attachment, support and mental wellbeing issues for 21 young people recruited through a clinical setting. One concern I have is about the depth of the interviews. The authors report that interviews were between 12 and 31 minutes, but these included "household composition, economy, family activities, responsibilities and friends" followed by the presentation of a vignette to which the participant responded. It seems unlikely that such short interviews could have provided particularly rich text and it would be informative for the authors to address this issue.

There is some indication that narratives were informed by caregiving rhetoric (e.g. reference to self-stigma p11- line 53) which may inform the way participants talk about their needs and experiences. This should be acknowledged in the discussion.

There are a couple of minor typographical/ language errors that should be corrected- for example, on p3, lines 55 and 56 orphan's should be orphans, on page 7 line 49 'station' is unclear as is 'detected' on line 53.

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.

Yes

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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