Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and associated factors of common mental disorders among adult patients attending HIV follow up service in Harar town, Eastern Ethiopia: A cross-sectional study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

First of all, we gratefully thank you for your over all contributions especially wonderful cooperation and your constructive comments and suggestions to make our manuscript to reach this level. Saying this we had provided our response to each reviewer’s comments as follow in the table.

Reviewers point

Authors respond

Reviewer 1 (Haruo Fujino, Ph.D.)

Abstract

The results do not support the statement that mental health is "the main problem of many adults living with HIV/AIDS" in Abstract. This study does not examine disease burdens of HIV/AIDS. The results showed 28% had mental health issues in Eastern Ethiopia.

Thank you for your constructive comment. We have edited it know under abstract, page 2, line 21.

Results and Discussion
Carefully avoid using the term "risk" in Results and Discussion (P12, P13) sections which can be misleading because this study is cross-sectional. Provide more strong rationale to support causal relationships between the variables and psychological distress in patients with HIV/AIDS or carefully revise the arguments.

Thank you for your constructive comment.

Now we had incorporated the comment accordingly under result and discussion (p12, p13)

In P13, Sample size is not a major reason that affects the prevalence of the condition. As the authors suggested, sample characteristics, recruitment, and method used to assess the condition are the major external factors affecting the results in epidemiological studies.

Thank you very much for your constructive comments again. We have edited it under discussion, page 12, line 8.

Avoid an expression suggesting a relationship like dose-dependent manner, like "as the severity of illness increased..." (P13) because the results showed only stage 4 was associated with the SRQ-20 >=7.

Thank you for your constructive comment. now we have avoided it under discussion, page 13, line 20.

-In P14, what is "sensitive parts of the brain"?? I recommend remove the part (L3-6). If the alcohol use caused mental disorders in the patients in this study, the mental issues that the patients had were not "common mental disorders".

Thank you. We have removed this part. Discussion, page 13, line 24

In P14, genetic risk was not suggested based on the obtained data in this study (i.e., family history of mental illness). Many other risk factors shared by the family members influence the development of mental illness or mental health issues.

Thank you very much for your wonderful comment. now we have edited and removed this biased issue. Discussion, page 14, line 27.

In Conclusions, they stated importance of psycho-education about substance use; however, there was no discussion about psycho-education in Discussion section. Preferably remove the part.

Thank you. We have removed this part in conclusion.

Minor comments:

-Define the abbreviations (COR and AOR) in its first appearance in the text.
Thank you. We have defined it under abstract result, page 2, line 2

Family history of mental illness is not included in the first paragraph of Discussion.

Thank you. We have added it now. Discussion, page 13, line 3.