Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 17 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Haruo Fujino

Reviewer’s report:

I reviewed the added Results and Discussion sections. I have several comments/concerns/suggestions for the current manuscript.

Generally, more careful and concise description is needed in Abstract, Results, and Discussion.

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.

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.

-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.

-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.

-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".

-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.
- 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.

Minor comments:

- Define the abbreviations (COR and AOR) in its first appearance in the text.
- Family history of mental illness is not included in the first paragraph of Discussion.

**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.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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