Reviewer’s report

Title: High Magnitude of under nutrition among HIV infected adults who have not started ART in Tanzania--A call to include nutrition care and treatment in the test and treat model

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2017

Reviewer: David Himmelgreen

Reviewer’s report:

The aim of the paper is to examine the nutritional status and associated risk factors among HIV positive adults prior to ART participation in Tanzania. The findings show that under-nutrition is prevalent, dietary diversity is lower, and that nutritional status varies by gender and age. The authors recommend that nutrition care be included as part of CTC treatment.

The findings from this study confirm that there is a link between food insecurity and HIV-status among PLWHIV especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. While these findings are not new, they do strengthen the argument for including nutritional interventions as part of HIV care ad treatment.

The following suggestions are offered to strengthen this paper.

1) Include literature that addresses the food insecurity-HIV link and argues for nutritional interventions as part of CIC. See African Journal of AIDS Research 2009, 8(4) for several papers on this topic.

2) Consider using a syndemic theoretical framework for explaining the link between pre-ART PLWHIV and undernutrition.

3) Nutrition status should be nutritional status throughout paper

4) Are there any data in the literature showing the improvements in nutritional status among PLWHIV in CIC with and without nutritional intervention. Discuss.

5) What might account for the differences in nutritional status by gender and age as described in the results

6) What was only BMI used to determine the prevalence of under-nutrition in this study.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal