

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_89551
Title of the Manuscript:	Prevalence and Determinants of Undetectable Viremia among HIV/AIDS clients receiving care in Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This sentence: "Viral load is the only objective surrogate endpoint in measuring the progress of HIV/AIDS and treatment success and every recipient on care need to be supported with several strategies including behavioral model to improve adherence to ART aimed at achievement of this goal." Is incorrect. Other measures including CD4 T cells count are also important quantative measures of HIV progression/pathogenesis. Edit sentence accordingly. 2) This sentence: "Significant proportion of recipient on care in RISE supported facilities in Akwa Ibom state have undetectable viral after six months of adherence to ART medications." Needs reference. 3) For table 1, when breaking down respondents by age it would be helpful to include more descriptive breakdown for ages above 20. Specifically to identify middle age and elderly individuals. 4) How does the frequency of HIV in the area vary by sex and how does this compare to the frequency of respondents? It is interesting that the cohort is mostly women. Does that reflect HIV prevalence, or possibly another factor? 5) Does the high level of unemployed respondents match the level of unemployment in the area? If not, are there theories on why it is so high in this population? 6) Table 2: Caption needs to be added where all drug abbreviations are spelled out. 7) Table 2, "organization" is spelled wrong. 8) Table 2, define "facility" under ART enrolment setting. 9) This sentence: "Viral load within the RISE project was measured using either Roche or Abott whose limit of detection is 20 copies/ml and 40 copies/ml respectively" belongs in the methods not discussion. Furthermore, more specific details on the reagents used and exact methodologies of the test must be included. Methods of sample collection and storage must also be included. 10) Odds ratios when assessing occupation, while significant, are very small indicating a minor effect. This should be clarified in the text for readers and statements attempting to draw conclusions from this should be tempered. 11) This sentence: "Those residing in rural areas are less likely to have drug holiday or forget their medications, stigma and discrimination and they are more likely to have better adherence to ART." Needs a reference. 12) A statement on data availability and sharing must be included. 13) The last sentence in the conclusion is copied almost verbatim form the paragraph above. Correct this. 	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Define MDD6, HIV, AIDS, RISE, and other acronyms at their first usage either in the abstract and/or the main text. 2) English grammar and syntax is fair, there are some minor issues throughout and the manuscript could benefit from review by a native English speaker. 3) Statement on source(s) of funding must be include. 4) Statement on author contributions must be included. 5) Statement on competing interest must be included. 6) Use the oxford comma where appropriate throughout the manuscript. 	

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Optional/General comments	This is a well conducted and well written retrospective cross-sectional study identifying efficacy of cART in a specific state in Nigeria. Multivariate regressions were carried out to identify some basic demographic factors linked to undetectable viral load in the participants. The study benefits from its large size, however there are a few issues which must be addressed. The methods section is greatly lacking details as noted in my comments. Also, all participants age >20 are grouped together, while those younger are broken down into subsets by age. Considering the longitudinal progression of HIV, more detailed data on subsets of older individuals will greatly benefit this paper.	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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