

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Research in Infectious Diseases
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJRID_103129
Title of the Manuscript:	Low prevalence and risk factors related to 6 weeks HIV-1 Mother to Child Transmission under Option B+ at military hospitals of Douala and Yaounde, and at the Bertoua regional hospital
Type of the Article	Original Research 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)
<p><u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p>2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</p> <p>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p> <p>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</p> <p>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</p> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>HIV infection is still of public health concern globally and as such any aspect that is brought to light is relevant. More recently the PMTCT strategy introduced to prevent vertical transmission has been of immense help in the fight to eliminate mother to child transmission of the disease.</p> <p>Title appears a bit confusing especially to the average reader and lacks clarity. Author may consider "Low Prevalence and Risk Factors Associated with the Transmission of HIV-1 Infection under The Option B+ Strategy at Doula and Yaounde Military Hospitals, and Bertoua Regional Hospital in Cameroon".</p> <p>Or "Low Prevalence and Risk Factors Associated with the Transmission of HIV-1 Infection under The Option B+ Strategy at 3 Referral Hospitals in Cameroon".</p> <p>It's largely comprehensive. Except for a few typos which can be found in the tracking in the manuscript.</p> <p>They are appropriate.</p> <p>Manuscript is scientifically correct.</p> <p>References are quite adequate. Perhaps authors can further support the explanations of the various options...Option A, Option B and Option B+ by looking up the ff. publication; Darby, Alexis, Jones, Sierra Hope, "World Health Organization Guidelines (Option A, B, and B+) for Antiretroviral Drugs to Treat Pregnant Women and Prevent HIV Infection in Infants". <i>Embryo Project Encyclopedia</i> (2021-03-01). ISSN: 1940-5030 http://embryo.asu.edu/handle/10776/13231</p>	
<p><u>Minor</u> REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Language (English) is largely suitable except for a few typos which has been tracked in the manuscript.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>Study is quite appropriate as it will add to the body of evidence supporting the introduction of the PMTCT strategy by WHO in decreasing vertical transmission of retroviral infection to neonates. It's therefore important to get these statistics from all nations affected by Mother to Child Transmission of HIV infection to infants.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>REVIEWERS COMMENTS ON ABSTRACT</u></p> <p>"Low prevalence and risk factors related to 6 weeks HIV-1 Mother to Child Transmission under Option B+ at military hospitals of Douala and Yaounde, and at the Bertoua regional hospital."</p>	

	<p>Comments to the authors:</p> <p>The study attempts to assess the rate of transmission of HIV-1 infection through MTCT as well as identify some associated risk factors in 3 carefully selected hospitals in Cameroon. The authors suggest that the findings made from the study would inform Policy in scaling up the adoption and implementation of the Option B+ strategy in all hospitals in Cameroon.</p> <p>The paper is well written, however there are a few issues to address.</p> <p><u>Issues: (minor)</u></p> <p>A thorough proof-read is necessary to improve readability. A few of these are listed below:</p> <p><u>Title:</u></p> <p>Title may read well as “Low Prevalence and Risk Factors Associated with the Transmission of HIV-1 Infection under The Option B+ Strategy at Doula and Yaounde Military Hospitals, and Bertoua Regional Hospital in Cameroon.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Low Prevalence and Risk Factors Associated with the Transmission of HIV-1 Infection under The Option B+ Strategy at 3 Referral Hospitals in Cameroon.</p> <p><u>AIMS</u></p> <p><i>Line 1:</i> The first word in the sentence should be capitalized. ..To evaluate instead of ...to evaluate</p> <p><i>Line 3:</i> Delete “Because” at the beginning of sentence and start with ‘Following the limited..</p> <p><u>Study design:</u></p> <p><i>Line 1:</i> Capitalize first word in first sentence...” A case-control...</p> <p><i>Line 3:</i> Delete the word ‘constituted’.</p> <p><u>Place and Duration of study</u></p> <p>Capitalize the words ‘Military and Hospitals’</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u></p> <p>Capitalize the first word ...”This research....</p> <p><i>Line 2, 3 & 4:</i> May read well as “Infants sampled at 6 weeks through the early detection test; rtPCR with Abbott m2000sp automated system were tested at the Military Health Research Center.</p> <p><u>Results:</u></p> <p>Sentence may read well with the phrase....”Within the study period, the overall...” instead of “In 6 months, the overall...</p> <p><u>Conclusion:</u></p> <p>Sentence may read better as....”Vertical transmission of HIV-1 infection is more likely in ART naïve pregnant women as compared to their counterparts established on ART. Hence, implementation of the Option B+ appear to be very essential in eliminating HIV-1 MTCT. Consequently, a systematic enrolment of these pregnant women living with HIV if scaled up, would be very instrumental in eliminating HIV-1 MTCT in Cameroon.</p>	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Kate Coleman-Sarfo
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