

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_98453
Title of the Manuscript:	Characterization and Profiling of Gut Bacterial Microbiome and Pathobionts among HIV-negative and HIV-infected individuals in Cameroon
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:

(<https://www.journalijtdh.com/index.php/IJTDH/editorial-policy>)

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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>Compulsory 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>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</p>	<p>1. The microbiome research is emerging field , so this is one of comprehensive findings which adds to existing body of knowledge, but the authors did not indicate the implication of the findings for clinical management of HIV/AIDS</p> <p>2. Yes , the title reflects the contents of manuscript</p> <p>3. Yes, but the conclusion is not appropriate, it simply lists findings, re-writing is needed</p> <p>4. Yes, but data analysis and the types of statistical tests used and level of significance was not described.</p> <p>5. Yes, the manuscript is original basic research of merit which may be potentially translated to clinical application</p> <p>6. Literature background can be improved , especially on association of gut microbiota with HIV disease progression or impact on treatment outcomes.</p> <p>Additional comments</p> <p>7. The objectives of the study are not clearly indicated</p> <p>8. From a cohort of 320 volunteer adult participants, authors need to explain why they purposively (not randomly) recruited sample size of 25 HIV positive and 15 HIV negative, any previous citation for this ratio?</p> <p>9. Authors stated in inclusion criteria, no ongoing HIV-related complications, but Table 1 indicates HIV-TB coinfection. In the results the authors also did not indicated the difference in profiles of microbiota in individuals with HIV-TB coinfection</p> <p>9. The link given for data availability is not working: https://epiquest.s3.amazonaws.com/epiquest_zr2768/CMCDFQUJAMKPZKAFWSY3FJLBJDRTBYVE/rawdata/zr2768.rawdata.190904.zip</p> <p>10. Authors did not discuss why the unique gut microbiome/oligotype OTU was significantly higher amongst HIV-positive individuals on HAART, ATB, and cotrimoxazole as compared to HIV-positive treatment naïve individuals, control of viral load was theoretically expected to correct dysbiosis.</p> <p>11. The majority of the HIV-negative individuals, presented with more pathobionts as compared to HIV –infected individuals, this seems paradoxical.</p> <p>12. The authors did not describe the association of viral load and CD4 counts with microbiome profiles</p> <p>13. Finally, the authors did not also indicate the potential probiotics for regulation of composition of microbiota for possible disease treatment or modification of HIV course</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	Yes, but some edits needed	
Optional/General comments	None	

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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