

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Medicine and Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJMAH_128493
Title of the Manuscript:	Determinants of Non-Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy Among HIV Positive Adolescents in a Tertiary Hospital in North Central Nigeria
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guidelines for the 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 guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

<https://r1-reviewerhub.org/general-editorial-policy/>

Important Policies Regarding Peer Review

Peer review Comments Approval Policy: <https://r1-reviewerhub.org/peer-review-comments-approval-policy/>

Benefits for Reviewers: <https://r1-reviewerhub.org/benefits-for-reviewers>

PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	This manuscript provides critical insights into the determinants of non-adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) among HIV-positive adolescents in North Central Nigeria, a demographic often overlooked in HIV research. By identifying key factors such as age, education, occupation, and stigmatization, the study highlights the multifaceted nature of ART adherence and the specific challenges faced by this vulnerable population. The findings serve as a valuable resource for healthcare providers, policymakers, and researchers, informing targeted interventions that can improve adherence rates and health outcomes in adolescents living with HIV. Furthermore, this research contributes to the broader understanding of ART adherence in low- and middle-income countries, emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive approaches to healthcare that address the unique needs of adolescents.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Yes, the title of the article is suitable. It clearly conveys the main focus of the study, which is the determinants of non-adherence to antiretroviral therapy among HIV-positive adolescents, and specifies the context of a tertiary hospital in North Central Nigeria.	
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	The abstract is generally comprehensive, covering the aim, study design, methodology, results, and conclusion. However, a few suggestions could enhance clarity and depth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify the Background: Including a brief statement on why adherence to ART is critical (e.g., its impact on viral load and overall health outcomes) could strengthen the context. Specify the Nature of "Non-Adherence": It might be helpful to define what constitutes non-adherence in the context of this study (e.g., missed doses, inconsistent treatment). Results Context: Consider adding a sentence on the implications of the 77.7% prevalence figure. For example, how does this compare to previous studies or guidelines? Expand the Conclusion: The conclusion could briefly mention the potential impact of improved adherence on health outcomes for these adolescents, emphasizing the importance of the recommended interventions. 	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	By applying the following comments, yes	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	Overall, while the references appear to be a solid foundation, enhancing their recency and local relevance would improve the manuscript's scientific rigor.	

Review Form 3

<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>By applying the following comments, yes</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Introduction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarity and Conciseness: - Consider breaking down long sentences into shorter ones to enhance readability. For example, the sentence starting with "In Nigeria, the HIV prevalence rate is 1.4%..." could be split for clarity. 2. Avoid Repetition: - The phrase "Adherence to ART is essential for achieving viral suppression and preventing treatment failure" is repeated. You can merge these ideas to streamline the text. 3. Reference Consistency: - Ensure that all citations are formatted consistently. For example, include a space after commas in citations (e.g., "Aderemi-William et al., 2021" instead of "Aderemi-William et al.,2021"). 4. Strengthen the Argument: - Add more detail or examples regarding the specific socio-economic challenges and cultural practices mentioned. This will provide a clearer picture of the barriers to adherence in the Nigerian context. 5. Transitions: - Improve transitions between ideas to enhance the flow of the text. For instance, when shifting from discussing HIV prevalence to ART adherence, a transitional sentence could help guide the reader. 6. Highlight Statistics: - Consider using bullet points or subheadings to highlight key statistics, such as the prevalence rates and significant findings. This makes the information more accessible and impactful. 7. Conclude with a Stronger Call to Action: - The conclusion could be more impactful by emphasizing the urgency and potential benefits of the proposed interventions. For example, mention how improving ART adherence could significantly reduce morbidity and mortality in this vulnerable population. 8. Proofreading for Typos: - Ensure that there are no typographical errors, such as missing punctuation or spacing issues. For instance, "UNADS, 2019" should be "UNAIDS, 2019." 9. Citations and Sources: - Ensure that all studies and statistics cited are up-to-date and relevant. If newer data is available, it would strengthen the argument. <p>Materials and Methods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Section Organization: - Ensure that the section headers are consistently formatted (e.g., using bold or italics) to enhance readability. The numbering should also be uniform (e.g., "2.3" instead of "2. 3"). 2. Clarity and Brevity: - In the "Study Area" and "Study Site" subsections, consider combining similar information to reduce redundancy. For example, you can mention the clinic's location and services in one paragraph. 3. Detailed Background: - Provide a brief context for why the study area (Makurdi, Benue State) is significant concerning HIV. This can help readers understand the relevance of your research setting. 4. Sample Size Calculation: - Clarify the rationale behind choosing the specific prevalence rate (58%) for your sample size calculation. Briefly mentioning the source or study where this prevalence was found could strengthen the argument. 5. Statistical Formulas: - Ensure all symbols in the formula and explanations are clearly defined. For example, you mention "δ" but do not explicitly state that it represents the expected precision. 6. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria: - Consider elaborating on why certain criteria were included or excluded. For example, explain the implications of excluding adolescents with multiple chronic co-morbidities on the study's findings. 7. Sampling Techniques: - The convenience sampling method should be justified. Discuss any limitations this sampling method might impose on the generalizability of your findings. 8. Data Collection Method: - In the "Data Collection Method," clarify how you ensured the reliability and validity of the questionnaire, aside from the pre-test phase. Mention any adjustments made based on feedback from the pre-test. 9. Statistical Analyses: 	

Review Form 3

	<p>- Specify which statistical tests were used for different types of data (e.g., categorical vs. continuous) to provide a clearer picture of your analysis approach.</p> <p>10. Ethical Considerations:</p> <p>- While you mention ethical approval and informed consent, consider adding details about how confidentiality was maintained (e.g., data anonymization) and any safeguards in place to protect participant information.</p> <p>11. Consistency in Terminology:</p> <p>- Ensure consistent terminology throughout the text. For example, use "adolescents" consistently instead of alternating terms like "youth" or "young people."</p> <p>12. Language and Grammar:</p> <p>- Review the text for grammatical accuracy and clarity. For instance, in "the population N, was 38," the comma should be removed for correct sentence structure.</p> <p>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</p> <p>#### 3.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics</p> <p>1. Clarity and Flow:</p> <p>- Consider using bullet points or concise paragraphs to present the socio-demographic characteristics clearly. This will enhance readability and allow readers to grasp key information quickly.</p> <p>2. Integration of Findings:</p> <p>- When stating that the mean age was 16.31 years, provide a brief interpretation of its significance rather than simply comparing it to other studies. For example, discuss how this age reflects the population at risk for HIV.</p> <p>3. Citation Consistency:</p> <p>- Ensure that citations are consistently formatted. For instance, some citations include author names and years, while others do not. Use a consistent format throughout the section (e.g., "Author et al. (Year)").</p> <p>4. Contextual Explanation:</p> <p>- When discussing the predominance of certain demographics (e.g., more females), include more contextual explanation about why these trends may exist in the study population.</p> <p>5. Comparative Analysis:</p> <p>- When comparing your findings to other studies, briefly summarize the implications of these comparisons. For instance, how do your findings contribute to understanding the broader context of HIV among adolescents in Nigeria?</p> <p>6. Avoid Repetition:</p> <p>- Avoid repeating similar findings multiple times. For example, instead of reiterating the high percentage of females across several studies, summarize it once and highlight any unique aspects of your findings.</p> <p>7. Cultural Context:</p> <p>- When discussing cultural factors (e.g., lack of power to negotiate sex), provide additional context or examples to strengthen the argument.</p> <p>#### 3.2 Prevalence of Non-Adherence</p> <p>1. Data Visualization:</p> <p>- Consider adding a brief description of the bar chart's key insights. For instance, highlight any notable trends or comparisons to previous studies beyond just stating the percentages.</p> <p>2. Clarification of Global Context:</p> <p>- When mentioning global prevalence rates, provide a brief explanation of how these figures relate to your findings, especially in the context of Nigeria.</p> <p>3. Detailed Discussion on Determinants:</p> <p>- Expand on why side effects, religious beliefs, and stigmatization are significant barriers. Discuss potential interventions that could address these issues based on your findings.</p> <p>#### 3.3 Determinants of Non-Adherence</p> <p>1. Consistency in Terminology:</p> <p>- Ensure that terms like "determinants" and "barriers" are used consistently throughout the section to avoid confusion.</p> <p>2. Link to Results:</p> <p>- When discussing the determinants of non-adherence, directly link these factors back to the demographic data presented earlier. This will help to create a cohesive narrative.</p> <p>3. Depth of Analysis:</p> <p>- Provide deeper insights into how factors like depression and beliefs about ART efficacy could be addressed in future interventions.</p> <p>#### 3.4 Bivariate Analysis</p> <p>1. Statistical Significance:</p> <p>- Specify the level of significance for the factors identified in the bivariate analysis. This will provide clarity on</p>	
--	---	--

Review Form 3

	<p>which factors are statistically significant.</p> <p>2. Visual Aids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If possible, consider including a visual representation (e.g., a table or graph) of the bivariate analysis results to enhance comprehension. <p>### 3.5 Multivariate Logistic Regression</p> <p>1. Explanatory Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a brief explanation of multivariate logistic regression for readers who may not be familiar with the method. Highlight its importance in identifying independent predictors. <p>2. Interpretation of Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss the implications of findings such as "2.16 times more likely" in a broader context. What does this mean for interventions targeting this age group? <p>### 4. CONCLUSION</p> <p>1. Summary of Key Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider summarizing the most critical findings in a bullet format in the conclusion for clarity. <p>2. Broader Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss the broader implications of your findings for public health policy or practice, especially in resource-limited settings. <p>### RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>1. Actionable Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make recommendations more actionable by providing specific examples of interventions or programs that could be implemented. <p>2. Prioritization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritize the recommendations based on their potential impact or feasibility, which may help stakeholders focus efforts effectively. 	
--	--	--

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:	Murtaza Haidary
Department, University & Country	Khatam Al-Nabieen, Afghanistan