

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in word format (file name: 20362-Review.doc).

Title: Cardiovascular disease in human immunodeficiency virus infected patients: A true or perceived risk?

Author: Shima Shahbaz, Marcella Manicardi, Giovanni Guaraldi, Paolo Raggi

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Cardiology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 20362

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer:

Reviewer 1

Good job. Nothing to add.

Response: Thank you for your praise.

Reviewer 2

The manuscript gives a review of spreading cardiovascular disease in HIV infected patients. The paper is well written and addresses an important field. As this manuscript is very long a better structure by the use of tables and a meta-analysis of existing studies would be helpful. Furthermore a algorithm of identifying HIV patients with high risk of cardiovascular disease

Response: Thank you for your laudatory comments. In response to your suggestion we created a new Table N.1 to summarize the main epidemiological studies that discussed the risk of cardiovascular disease in HIV+ patients. A metanalysis is not possible since there are no randomized studies and it is not possible to summarize in a metanalytic way observational studies.

Reviewer 3

This is an interesting and well written paper regarding the possible implication of HIV infection, treatment for HIV and cardiovascular disease risk, giving insight for future research and providing a proposal for screening algorithms for cardiovascular risk assessment in HIV patients. The manuscript would benefit from the following: 1. Please provide 4-5 more figures illustrating the valuable information described. For example a figure highlighting the screening algorithms for CVD risk stratification in HIV patients (pages 14-16) and another one (pages 7-10) linking CVD risk and

HIV infection and treatment at a possible MOLECULAR level, highlighting the theories, instead of just reporting studies, as previously. 2. Please add 3-4 tables.

Response: Thank you for your laudatory comments. Please see above in response to Rev. 2 regarding tables; we could not think of other tables to add that may be of substantial help besides the new Table 1.

As for figures, we added 3 new figures describing the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis in HIV and a figure describing risk assessment algorithms for HIV patients. There are now a total of 4 figures.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Cardiology*.