

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Dear Editor,

We now submit the revised version of our manuscript according to reviewers' comments, which we believe have improved our work.

All alterations are marked in yellow in the text and all the necessary files have been uploaded.

Reply to Reviewers:

Proper modifications have been made in the discussion section and the minor corrections have been made as well.

The significance of the paper lies to the fact that HAART prompt initiation may alter few of the disturbances that HIV infection itself promotes. Similar findings for the significance of immediate initiation of antivirals have been published recently from the START Study Team, which insist that HAART is necessary to be started once the diagnosis of HIV infections has been confirmed (N Engl J Med 2015 Aug 27; 373 (9): 795-807. DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa1506816. PMID: 26192873).

Additionally, concerning the HIV vaccine development design, new scientific trends lean towards the role of B cells in HIV pathogenesis and their possible use to design and develop a proper vaccine for preventing HIV infections. Multiple studies try to assess and isolate the responsible B cell subsets that interfere to the pathogenesis of HIV infection and will lead to the vaccine development (Trends Mol Med. 2011 Feb; 17 (2): 108-16. doi: 10.1016/j.molmed.2010.10.008, Sci Transl Med. 2016 Apr 27; 8 (336): 336ra62. doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aaf0618)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Olga Tsachouridou