

October 30, 2015

Lian-Sheng Ma
President and Company Editor-in-Chief
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc
8226 Regency Drive,
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Re: 20933-manuscript revision

Dear Lian-Sheng Ma,

On behalf of my co-authors, I would like to thank you for the review of our manuscript. We have updated the manuscript according to the guidelines and requirements for manuscript revision for a retrospective study. We revised the manuscript according to the reviewer's comments (see list below).

Administrator's comments on the edited manuscript 20933 were addressed as follows:

- a. Authors' information, title, abstract, core tip, key words are now included in the document 20933-Revised manuscript, highlighted in green.
- b. Ethics related statement is included in the document 20933-Revised manuscript highlighted in green.
- c. In-text reference numbers were superscripted and placed in square brackets across the text.
- d. Writing requirements for each subsection (i.e. background, research frontiers, innovations and breakthroughs, applications and terminology) are included.
- e. PubMed citation numbers and DOI citations were added to the reference list, listing all authors for each reference.

Reviewers' comments are addressed below:

1. The manuscript explores interesting relationship between CD4 count and depression. It found that there is association between poor CD4 count and untreated depression. But this relationship could be reflecting the relationship between poor CD4 count and low general compliance which is associated with poor compliance with ART treatment. This seemed to be verified to be the 50% concordance between depression treatment compliance and ART compliance reported by authors. Further, the difference in CD4 count between untreated and no-depression controls may be more relevant to support

the relationship between poor CD4 count and existence of depression. It is not clear what the authors meant by independent association between depression and poor CD4 count. It may be beneficial to clarify it is the association between depression and CD4 count, independent of adherence?

Our Response to Reviewer 1's Comment is as follows:

As shown under Table 3, in examining the relationship between CD4 and depression, we adjusted for differences in age, sex, education and self-reported ART adherence. Therefore, our statement of independent association between depression and poor CD4 count, implies that the association between depression and CD4 count remained significant after controlling for these four potential confounders i.e. age, sex, education and self-reported ART adherence.

2. Interesting Manuscript, but table is missing in the pdf. Final Evaluation is n?tig possible
Tables 1-3 are now included in the revised manuscript.

We have included the following documents in the submission of this revision:

- 1 20933-Revised manuscript
- 2 20933-Answering reviewers
- 3 20933-Copyright assignment
- 4 20933-Audio core tip
- 5 20933-Institutional review board statement
- 6 20933-Informed consent statement
- 7 20933-Biostatistics statement
- 8 20933-Conflict-of-interest statement
- 9 20933-Data sharing statement
- 10 20933-Google Scholar
- 11 20933-CrossCheck

We thank you in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me for any other issues or concerns.

Sincerely,

eanwulia

Evaristus A. Nwulia, M.D., MHS
Associate Professor and Director
Translational Neuroscience Laboratory