



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_27212
Title of the Manuscript:	Prognostic value of Serum Estrogen, Cortisol, Calcium and Alkaline Phosphatase Activity in Pre and Postmenopausal HIV Women at Nnewi, Nigeria
Type of the Article	Original Research 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:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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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)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	• Please indicate/include section how authors determined menopausal status of women. • Did the authors measure bone mineral density? How did the authors determine if their participants, especially the HIV infected women, had decreased BMD? Since a lot of emphasis is put onto osteoporosis, it is strongly recommended that BMD is included. • More information on the HIV infected groups is recommended. I.e. years since first diagnosis, ART regime used by HIV infected participants. It is well known that specific ART (Tenofovir) has quite an effect on BMD. Time period on ART. • Line 112: authors report on "... significant decrease in mean serum estrogen level..." however since this was cross-sectional data collection authors cannot state that decrease was observed. Authors can only report significant lower levels of estrogen in HIV infected women compared to control group. • Line 95 & 96 contradicts what is reported in Line 191 & 192 • Related to bullet point above: if there is a significant difference in serum calcium levels, it	Menopausal status was prospectively captured during interviews with structured questionnaires. Premenopausal status was evaluated by history as regular menses with greater than 6 cycles per year that were between 19-45 years. Postmenopausal status was defined by a minimum of 1 year of amenorrhea and with FSH concentration > 30 mIU/ml who were between 46-80 years The authors did not measure BMD Participants on ART were not recruited. Only HIV stage 1 subjects were recruited. Line 112 has been clarified and corrected Line 95 and 96 have been revised. PTH and 25 (OH) VIT D have been added



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	is strongly recommended to include PTH (parathyroid hormone) as well as vitamin D levels into analyses. - Line 168 & 169 authors stated “The mean total serum level of estrogen in HIV-infected premenopausal females showed an insignificant increase when compared with premenopausal Control group” This sentence needs to be rephrased since this was cross-sectional data the authors cannot infer an increase. The authors should rather state that estrogen levels were <u>significantly higher</u> in HIV group compared to control group. - Line 171 - 175: the argument line is not clear. Please rewrite. - Authors should do spelling and grammar proofreading by native English speaking person - Authors should include a table that contains demographic characteristics of all participants. - Age - Height - Weight - Years since HIV diagnoses (for HIV only) - ART regime (HIV only) - FSH levels - Authors should indicate and discuss any confounding factors	Line 168 & 169 have been corrected. Line 171-175 have been re-written The spelling errors have been effected. Tables have been shown Section on limitations of study has been added. HIV-1 seropositive participants were obtained from Heart to Heart unit and HIV clinic. Only participants who do not show signs and symptoms of HIV infection were recruited for the study
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	• Authors should include section on limitations Ethical Issues: Authors indicated voluntarily participation and that informed consent were obtained. Could the authors also include more information on where/how HIV infected participants were recruited? Please provide more detail on recruitment process.	
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	• Please indicate if normality test was performed on all variables. If variables were not normally distributed how was it dealt with. • Please indicate significant differences between groups on Figures. • Line 152: “However, relatively, studies have used bone...” Does the authors mean relatively few studies? • Line 157 & 158 the authors stated that their HIV postmenopausal women had significant lower levels of estrogen compared to the premenopausal women. This is however to be expected. Hence no need to emphasize this finding.	Yes Normality test were performed on all variables. Line 152 has been clarified and removed Line 157 and 158 have been clarified and corrected.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	• Authors should note that Declaration of Helsinki was revised in 2013	Noted in ethical clearance section