



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	The conclusions are not supported by the data presented. Specifically, the authors state that “This study reveals that premenopausal and postmenopausal women with HIV infection have reduced estrogen and higher levels of cortisol and AP activity when compared to... control subjects.” This is not accurate. Specifically, Figure 1 indicates that premenopausal women with HIV have higher levels (though not statistically significant) of estrogen than the control group. Similarly, the differences found between the test and control groups for the postmenopausal groups for AP were very clearly not significant. In the Discussion, the authors state that “the present study showed that the mean total serum estrogen level of HIV infected postmenopausal females was significantly decreased compared to the value in HIV infected premenopausal women...” however, the authors found no difference between estrogen levels in pre and postmenopausal control women. As many previous authors have documented differences in this population, can the authors speculate on why their study did not find a difference?	The results and conclusions have been revised and corrected. The insignificant differences in serum estrogen between pre and postmenopausal control may be due to the time of collection of the specimen even though the phases of menstrual cycle was not taken into account before collection of samples.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Please be consistent with the spelling of the word “estrogen.”	Noted



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	Please remove CD4 from Figure 3. If you wish to present CD4 levels, please do this on a separate plot. As it stands, the differences for Ca, AP, Estrogen, and Cortisol are not legible as the CD4 values are several orders of magnitude greater. Similarly, as presented, some of the differences the authors emphasize in the Discussion are not readily apparent in the Results. Specifically, with the Estrogen levels for Pre- and Postmenopausal women presented on two separate figures, it is difficult to visually compare these differences.	CD4 T cell count has been shown in the tables. The results have been clarified in the tables.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		