Review of: "Prevalence and Factors Associated With Selected Non-communicable Diseases (Hypertension, Type 2 Diabetes, and Depression) Among People Living With HIV at Kalisizo Hospital in Kyotera District, Uganda: A Cross-Sectional Study"

I. Marion Sumari-de Boer[1]

1 Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very important and interesting paper on NCDs among PLHIV in Uganda, which certainly should be published. The study was carried out robustly. To improve the manuscript, I have added some questions for clarification below.

The methods seem too detailed for a scientific publication in a peer-reviewed manuscript. I would significantly shorten them. Several details could be put in a supplementary file.

What level of power was used to calculate the sample size?

The definition of BMI and the scores is mentioned twice. Better remove the first mention.

I would also distinguish between data collection methods and data to be collected by adding headings on the two topics.

For hypertension, there were three readings. Which was used, or how were they three used to define hypertension?

The definition of physical activity is given, but not explained how that information was collected. The same goes for diet, tobacco use, and family history.

Microsoft Excel was used for data entry, but that is not a data collection tool. It is rather a spreadsheet. Could you explain if another tool was used to collect the data? Like a paper survey instrument? If that data was then transferred to Excel, how did you prevent errors?

Please elaborate on why poison was used.

Was ethical clearance requested from the National Council?

Tables 1, 2, 3 could have added columns for % NCDs.

In the results, the text repeats exactly what is in the tables. As such, the text could be significantly shortened by referring

to the tables.

In table 7, it is not clear what is meant by "selected NCDs."

In the discussion about the prevalence of depression, which studies used the PHQ-9? Add that to the discussion.

Add a limitation description about the representativity of the study population.