

Review of: "Prevalence and Factors Associated With Non-communicable Diseases Among People Living With HIV at Kalisizo Hospital in Kyotera District, Uganda: A Cross-Sectional Study"

Emmanuel Nyakeriga¹

¹ Kenyatta University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Could the title be revised to “**Prevalence and Factors Associated With Non-communicable**

Diseases Among Rural Elderly Living With HIV at Kalisizo Hospital in Kyotera District, Uganda”

Abstract | Consider adopting:

Background: In rural Uganda, limited data exist on the prevalence and factors associated with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among people living with HIV (PLHIV), despite heightened concerns about their increased susceptibility. This study investigated the prevalence and assessed factors associated with selected NCDs (hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and depression) among PLHIV seeking HIV care at Kalisizo Hospital.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted (August 8th to 24th, 2020) at Kalisizo Hospital, involving a randomly selected sample of 290 individuals living with HIV. Data on socio-demographics, lifestyle, and clinical characteristics were collected using an adapted WHO steps questionnaire, medical records review, and the patient Health Questionnaire-9. Additional anthropometric and laboratory measurements were conducted. Statistical analysis was performed using STATA Version 15.0, employing Modified Poisson regression.

Citation: Improvement of citation, for example, on page 3: Kansiime et al. should be revised toKansiime et al., (2023)....

Study design, settings, and population:

Title: Considering that in the African context, the majority of the rural population is largely aged in comparison to the urban population, the selection of the PLHIV ≥ 35 years presents a bias and does not speak to the title that is interpreted to be targeting the general population living with HIV. The cited citation [37] equally targets urban elderly. Please consider adopting the revised title above.

Page 4| Consider adopting: In instances where selected participant (s) that couldn't honor the appointment (s) on the designated day(s) were contacted via telephone by the research assistant (a staff member at Kalisizo Hospital), the participant was then added to the list of respondents to be interviewed the following day. Random sampling was used to

replace participants who remained unavailable on the rescheduled days.

Figure 1: Could be improved and presented better.

Discussion: Consider adopting...."The overall prevalence of selected NCDs among PLHIV (≥ 35 years) at Kalisizo Hospital was 39.7%"....

Paragraph 2, Page 16 The prevalence of NCDS, T2DM comparison could be misleading considering the selected age group may be different from the age group that the said cited studies could have selected. The higher NCD prevalence could thus be attributed to a] the selection bias (≥ 35 years), b] increased Dx that may not be the routine practice, c] the rural setting where many may not be routinely doing medical check-ups.

Study Limitations: Please consider including a potential selection bias based on the age group that was targeted.