

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"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper examines the prevalence of NCDs in a population of people living with HIV in East Africa. The study is well done overall, with good characterization of the subjects and a reasonably large sample size. These studies are complex to perform, and the team is to be acknowledged for their efforts.

Major Points

The primary findings are generally similar to those of other studies. It should be discussed that fasting blood glucose is VERY insensitive for the diagnosis of T2D, particularly in people of African ancestry (see Sumner AE), and that while reasonable for screening in some populations, it likely is relatively ineffective in Africans. If possible, a cut-off of 100 mg/dL should be considered because this would meet the criteria for pre-diabetes and is a very strong predictor of the development of subsequent T2D. I suggest re-looking at the data and adding this 100-125 cut-off.

The rates of HTN are quite low for this age group in East Africa—while cutoffs differ across studies, the methodology used can also influence the findings. I would review the precise ways this was performed in the other cited studies.

Waist circumference is a strong predictor of T2D risk—was this measured in the study? If so, this would be extremely helpful to add to the predictive model.

A description of the HIV regimens that subjects were on is very important for the study—certain components of ART are well known to associate with T2D, and appropriate measures to control for this should be made.

Minor Points

There are a number of typographical errors in the document that need to be revised, such as "Additionally, variations in age categories among the studied populations could contribute to the observed differences, specifically for [31]." Please review the manuscript closely for hanging sentences.

The tables are appropriate.

