

BMJ:
Decision on
Manuscript
ID
BMJ-2019-
050723

Body: 04-Jun-2019

Re: BMJ-2019-050723
Unmasking the vulnerabilities of HIV-affected children

Dear Dr. Ramokolo,

Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting back to you about your revised paper for BMJ, above. As I noted in an informal email, I have discussed the revision with Paul Simpson, International Audience Editor, and we agreed that the revisions addressed the reviewers' concerns well, and we anticipate progressing forwards with the paper, with the anticipation of publishing.

However, before we can formally accept, we'd like to work with you to make some small improvements to the writeup of the article so it better fits with BMJ style for this series as well as helping to tighten the narrative somewhat.

I've directly edited and commented on a copy of the submitted (revised) file using Word track changes and comment balloons and it would be fantastic if the authors could look at those specific editing changes and suggestions, and try to work these into a final version which we can then hopefully accept.

Apart from those very minor tweaks to text I did also spot this paper, with encouraging findings (published May 20th) - but I fully understand that the authors have to draw a line at some point as to the literature which is being taken on board for the proposals set out in this paper:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhiv/article/PIIS2352-3018\(19\)30083-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhiv/article/PIIS2352-3018(19)30083-9/fulltext)

Please try to keep the final version within the word count of 1800-2000 words - it's great that the article is already there and did not need cutting down (however, the Standfirst and Key Messages did - I have made suggestions already, and hope these can be taken on board).

It would be great if the authors could resubmit within the next two weeks if at all possible (ie by 16th June). Do let me know if you need more time. There's no need to submit clean versus track changes versions this time.

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I hope you will find the minor edits useful. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

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