

Final report

List of corrections

Abstract background

I reworded the second sentence and conclusion statement as suggested by the external examiner

Problem statement

I added reference to support the use of haemoglobin, serum albumin and body mass index as measures of nutritional status as suggested by both examiners

Introduction

I made changes to distinguish between Dikotlana Basadi and Dikotlana Basadi Pilot Study to the reader as suggested from the internal examiner

Study design

I described the sampling strategy for inclusion in the pilot study as suggested by the internal examiner

Clinical assessments

I accepted the technical note from the internal examiner and changed text accordingly.

Results section

I embedded the population characteristics and baseline nutritional status tables into the text and deleted from the annex as suggested by both examiners

Appendix tables

I added units as suggested by the internal examiner

The conclusion/discussions

I accepted the advise given by both examiners and phrased the conclusion more cautiously. It now reads "This study generates hypothesis on the role haemoglobin may play in genital shedding of HIV-1 in females"

Recommendation

Now reads "Further larger prospective studies of appropriate study design are required to find out the role played by anaemia in HIV transmission"