

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Archives of Current Research International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_ACRI_129967
Title of the Manuscript:	THE RETENTION IN ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN GAMBORU MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CLINIC (MCH), MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA.
Type of the Article	

General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	<p>The manuscript titled "The Retention in Antiretroviral Therapy and Its Associated Factors Among Pregnant Women in Gamboru Maternal and Child Health Clinic (MCH), Maiduguri, Nigeria" contributes significantly to the scientific community by providing vital insights into the challenges faced by pregnant women undergoing antiretroviral therapy (ART) in a specific socio-economic context. Understanding retention rates and the factors influencing them is crucial for improving healthcare outcomes in this vulnerable population.</p> <p>The findings of this study can inform targeted interventions and policy decisions aimed at enhancing adherence to ART, ultimately reducing the transmission of HIV and improving maternal and child health. Furthermore, this research may serve as a model for similar studies in other regions, thereby advancing global knowledge on HIV treatment strategies in pregnant women.</p>	Thanks for the comments
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	It is ok. Otherwise, you can use an alternative title could be: "Factors Influencing Retention in Antiretroviral Therapy Among Pregnant Women at Gamboru Maternal and Child Health Clinic, Maiduguri, Nigeria"	Thanks for the comments
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	<p>The abstract provided is generally comprehensive, covering the background, methods, results, and conclusion of the study. However, to enhance clarity and completeness, I suggest the following revisions and additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Background Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarification of Importance: It would be beneficial to specify the significance of the study within the broader context of public health in Nigeria - Statistical Evidence: Consider including specific statistics regarding the prevalence of HIV in Nigeria or the northern region to underscore the urgency of the issue. Methods Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study Design: Explicitly state that this is a cross-sectional study to provide clarity on the methodology. - Data Analysis Techniques: Provide more detail on how data were analyzed, particularly regarding the statistical methods used beyond logistic regression. 	<p>Thanks for the comments</p> <p>Noted and revised as per the suggestions</p>

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	<p>3. Results Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Retention Rate Explanation: Elaborate on the implications of the low retention rate (40%) and compare it to national or regional benchmarks, if available.- Additional Predictors: Mention any other significant predictors of retention identified in the study, along with their respective odds ratios, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the factors at play. <p>4. Conclusion Section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Broader Implications: Discuss the potential impact of improved retention on maternal and child health outcomes more explicitly.- Future Research Directions: Suggest areas for future research that could build on the findings, such as longitudinal studies or qualitative research to explore patient experiences. <p>Revised Abstract Suggestion:</p> <p>Background: Despite various interventions to reduce HIV transmission to newborns, Nigeria, particularly its northern region, continues to witness a rise in HIV cases. A significant contributor to this issue is the failure of HIV-positive pregnant women to adhere to lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART). This study investigates the factors influencing pregnant women's discontinuation of ART.</p> <p>Methods: A quantitative cross-sectional study was conducted using secondary data from medical records of 235 pregnant women enrolled in the HIV program between 2015 and 2019 at Gaboru Maternal and Child Health Clinic, Maiduguri, Nigeria. Patient characteristics and the prevalence of retention-related factors were analyzed using frequencies and percentages. Multiple logistic regression was employed to identify predicting factors influencing ART retention.</p> <p>Results: Participants' ages ranged from 15 to 45 years, with a mean age of 28.9 ± 5.74. The retention rate was notably low at 40%. The final logistic regression model identified phone ownership (aOR, 0.075, 95% CI 0.071 – 0.336, $p=0.001$) as a significant predictor of retention, along with age at the start of ART and current ART regimen. The model explained 9.2% of the variability in retention.</p> <p>Conclusion: The study emphasizes the need for improved communication strategies for patients upon their initial contact with the clinic, which is crucial for enhancing retention in ART care. It also advocates for intensive public awareness campaigns regarding the importance of adherence to ART regimens among HIV-positive individuals.</p> <p>These adjustments would enhance the abstract's clarity and impact, making it more informative for readers.</p>	
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<p>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</p>	<p>The manuscript titled "The Retention in Antiretroviral Therapy and Its Associated Factors Among Pregnant Women in Gamboru Maternal and Child Health Clinic (MCH), Maiduguri, Nigeria" appears to be scientifically sound in several respects, including its structure, methodology, and presentation of results. However, there are areas where improvements could enhance its scientific rigor and clarity. Below are some observations regarding the manuscript's scientific correctness:</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Well-Defined Objectives: The study clearly articulates its objective to investigate factors influencing retention in ART among pregnant women, addressing a critical public health issue. Methodology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quantitative design using secondary data from medical records is appropriate for this type of analysis. The use of multiple logistic regression for identifying predictors of retention is a suitable statistical method. Comprehensive Literature Review: The introduction provides a thorough overview of existing research, highlighting the significance of the issue and establishing the study's relevance within the broader context of HIV management in Nigeria. Clear Presentation of Results: The data is presented in a structured manner, using tables and figures to support the findings, which enhances readability and comprehension. Ethical Considerations: The manuscript discusses ethical approvals and the maintenance of patient confidentiality, which is essential in health-related research. <p>Areas for Improvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical Analysis Clarity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the statistical methods are mentioned, a more detailed explanation of how variables were coded and how the assumptions of the chosen statistical tests were validated would strengthen the methodology. The manuscript should clarify the rationale behind the choice of statistical tests and how they align with the data distribution. Result Interpretation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results section does not sufficiently delve into the implications of the findings. For example, while phone ownership is identified as a significant factor for retention, the discussion could explore how this factor influences treatment adherence and what interventions could be implemented to improve communication. The relationship between retention rates and various demographic factors could be analyzed more deeply to understand potential confounding variables. References and Citations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all references are current and relevant to the study's context. Some cited studies are from earlier years, and more recent literature might provide additional insights. The format of references should be consistent and adhere to a specific citation style throughout the manuscript. Grammar and Spelling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are minor typographical errors, such as "THEARPY" in the title, which should be corrected to "THERAPY." Ensuring grammatical accuracy and proper spelling throughout the manuscript is critical for professionalism and scientific credibility. Conclusion and Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conclusion could benefit from a more robust discussion of future research directions and practical recommendations for healthcare practitioners based on the study's findings. The implications for public health policy should be articulated more clearly to emphasize the importance of the study's results. <p>Summary</p> <p>Overall, the manuscript presents a valuable contribution to the understanding of ART retention among pregnant women in Nigeria. By addressing the aforementioned areas for improvement, the authors can enhance its scientific rigor and impact within the public health community.</p>	<p>Ok noted</p>
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the</p>	<p>The references provided in the manuscript on "The Retention in Antiretroviral Therapy and Its Associated Factors Among Pregnant Women in Gamboru Maternal and Child Health Clinic (MCH), Maiduguri, Nigeria" include a mix of recent and older sources. Here is an</p>	<p>Thanks for the suggestions</p>

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<p>review form.</p>	<p>analysis of the current references along with suggestions for additional readings:</p> <p>Analysis of Current References</p> <p>1. Age of References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Several references date back to 2011 (UNAIDS and Federal Ministry of Health Nigeria), which may not reflect the most current understanding and advancements in HIV/AIDS treatment and retention strategies.- While some references from 2017 and 2018 provide valuable insights, the inclusion of more recent studies (2019-2023) would enhance the manuscript's relevance. <p>2. Relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The majority of the references focus on ART retention and related factors, which is appropriate for the study. However, some references could be more directly related to the specific population of pregnant women or the context in Nigeria. <p>3. Diversity of Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The references include a mix of regional studies (e.g., Uganda, Zimbabwe) and global reports. While this is beneficial for contextual understanding, it would be advantageous to include more studies specifically focused on Nigeria or similar contexts. <p>Suggestions for Additional References</p> <p>To strengthen the manuscript, consider including the following recent and relevant studies:</p> <p>1. Recent Studies on ART Retention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Retention and adherence to antiretroviral therapy among pregnant and postpartum women living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review" (2021). This study provides updated insights into factors affecting retention and adherence within this specific demographic. <p>2. Local Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Barriers to Antiretroviral Therapy Adherence among Pregnant Women Living with HIV in Nigeria: A Qualitative Study" (2020). This qualitative research may offer deep insights into local contextual factors affecting ART retention. <p>3. Global Guidelines and Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Global AIDS Update 2022: In Danger" (UNAIDS, 2022). This report provides the latest data and recommendations, which could enhance the background context of HIV treatment efforts. <p>4. Recent Reviews or Meta-Analyses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Factors influencing retention in HIV care: A systematic review and meta-analysis" (2023). This type of publication can summarize the latest findings across multiple studies, providing a comprehensive view of the issue. <p>5. Updated Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- "HIV and pregnancy: A global perspective" (2023). This article may provide recent statistics and trends regarding HIV in pregnant women, which is relevant for the background section. <p>Conclusion</p> <p>In conclusion, while the references in the manuscript provide foundational knowledge, incorporating more recent studies and those specifically focused on the Nigerian context will enhance the manuscript's credibility and relevance. The suggested additional references will help ensure that the literature review is comprehensive and up-to-date, ultimately improving the quality of the scholarly communication.</p>	<p>Ok</p>
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<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language and quality of English in the manuscript "The Retention in Antiretroviral Therapy and Its Associated Factors Among Pregnant Women in Gamboru Maternal and Child Health Clinic (MCH), Maiduguri, Nigeria," present both strengths and areas for improvement in the context of scholarly communication.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clear Structure: The manuscript follows a clear structure typical of scholarly articles, including sections for the abstract, introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion. This organization aids in the logical flow of information. Technical Terminology: The use of appropriate technical language and terminology related to HIV, ART, and public health demonstrates a solid understanding of the subject matter. Descriptive Language: The manuscript effectively describes the study population, methodology, and results, providing sufficient detail for readers to understand the context and findings. <p>Areas for Improvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Typographical Errors: There are several typographical errors and inconsistencies throughout the manuscript, such as "THEARPY," which should be corrected to "THERAPY." Such errors detract from the professionalism of the document. Sentence Structure: Some sentences are overly complex or lengthy, which may hinder readability. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original: "The study also helps to identify if there is an association between several potential factors and retention rate." Revised: "The study also aims to identify associations between various potential factors and the retention rate." This revision simplifies the sentence while retaining its meaning. Word Choice and Redundancy: There are instances of redundant phrases or awkward word choices that could be streamlined for clarity. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original: "The quantitative study design helps in identifying threats, causation, exposure, and relationship from historical data of patients in the present study." Revised: "The quantitative study design aids in identifying relationships and potential threats from historical patient data." Consistency in Terminology: Ensure consistent use of terminology throughout the manuscript. For instance, "ART" should be defined in the abstract and consistently used thereafter without redefinition unless necessary. Punctuation and Grammar: There are instances of grammatical errors and punctuation issues that need correction. For example, some sentences are missing periods or contain misplaced commas, which should be addressed to enhance clarity. Conciseness: Certain sections could benefit from greater conciseness. For example, the introduction could be more direct in presenting the study's rationale and objectives without excessive background detail. <p>Summary</p> <p>In conclusion, while the manuscript demonstrates a solid understanding of the topic and presents its findings in a structured manner, improvements in language quality, clarity, and grammatical accuracy are necessary for it to meet the standards of scholarly communication. Addressing these issues will enhance the manuscript's professionalism and make it more accessible to a broader academic audience</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>		

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	