**Supplementary Table 1: The effect of initiation compared to deferring cART on time to AIDS/death by viremia copy-years by CD4 cell count strata (<350, <500 cells/mm3)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **CD4 < 350** **cells/mm3** | |  | **CD4 < 500** **cells/mm3** | |  |
|  | **Events (N)** | **HR (95%CI)** | **p, AIC** | **Events (N)** | **HR (95%CI)** | **p** |
| **VCY (copy-years/mL)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| < 10,000 | 36 | 0.90 (0.47, 1.71) | \*0.11 | 99 | 1.09 (0.69, 1.72) | \*0.03 |
| 10,000-20,000 | 42 | 0.80 (0.42, 1.54) | †0.01 | 109 | 0.76 (0.44, 1.30) | †0.001 |
| 20,000-50,000 | 58 | 0.45 (0.25, 0.81) | ‡33593.28 | 147 | 0.75 (0.52, 1.08) | ‡102466.00 |
| 50,000-100,000 | 75 | 0.50 (0.31, 0.81) |  | 146 | 0.62 (0.42, 0.91) |  |
| >100,000 | 113 | 0.39 (0.29, 0.53) |  | 186 | 0.46 (0.37, 0.59) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Current HIV-RNA (copies/mL)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| < 10,000 | 45 | 0.72 (0.40, 1.31) | \*0.56 | 101 | 0.99 (0.66, 1.50) | \*0.05 |
| 10,000-20,000 | 40 | 0.57 (0.28, 1.13) | †0.09 | 89 | 0.73 (0.42, 1.26) | †0.01 |
| 20,000-50,000 | 67 | 0.50 (0.30, 0.84) | ‡33524.76 | 140 | 0.55 (0.37, 0.83) | ‡102562.60 |
| 50,000-100,000 | 72 | 0.48 (0.30, 0.77) |  | 133 | 0.65 (0.46, 0.93) |  |
| >100,000 | 106 | 0.41 (0.30, 0.57) |  | 184 | 0.49 (0.38, 0.62) |  |

Abbreviations: HR – hazard ratio; cART – combination antiretroviral therapy  
\*p-heterogeneity  
†p-trend  
‡ AIC- Akaike information criterion