Author's response to reviews

Title: Accuracy of Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid as a Cervical Cancer Test Validated using Latent Class Analysis

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Version: 4 Date: 30 June 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
June 30, 2007
Re MS: 2410465181271875

Dear BMC editor and reviewers

We are pleased to submit a revised version of our manuscript “Visual inspection with acetic acid as a cervical cancer test: accuracy validated using latent class analysis” which incorporates the various suggestions and recommendations made in the initial review. We trust that these revisions will meet with your approval and that the final manuscript version is now ready for publication.

Kind regards,

Lynne Gaffikin, DrPH
Corresponding author

Editor:

We have reformatted the entire document and figures using the templates provided to conform to BMC standards.

Reviewer Aerts:

Page 17 1st new paragraph: We have elaborated on the limitations of LCA in the conclusion section and have incorporated reference to Pepe and Janes’ 2007 paper. We have also added a comment about other approaches that can be used in the absence of a gold standard and made reference to two articles - Alonzo T and Pepe MS (1999) and Hui SL and Zhou XH (1998).

Reviewer Trottier:

In the background section:

Page 3 2nd paragraph line 3: we have added the known range of the Pap test as well as that of VIA. This range was originally cited only in the discussion section but we have repeated it up here for comparative purposes.

Page 4 1st new paragraph line 4: we have expanded and added a definition of LCA

Page 5 1st paragraph: The section on the two objectives has been rewritten so this is more clear.

In the methods section:
Page 16 1\textsuperscript{st} new paragraph: We have added a paragraph explaining the rationale for the study age range and how this limits generalizability in the discussion section

Page 5 2\textsuperscript{nd} paragraph: We have included the names of all 4 tests

Page 8 2\textsuperscript{nd} new paragraph: We have added a description of which test results were combined to form the dichotomous categories.