Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 19 March 2007

Reviewer: Helen Trottier

Reviewer’s report:

General
Very nice study!
Cervical cancer is one of the most important cancer in developing countries. This is an important paper. It shows the accuracy of VIA test in detecting cervical pre-cancer lesions in a low resource-setting. The paper is very well written.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

In the background section:
For the first sentence of the second paragraph (about sensibility and specificity):
I suggest to give the known range of specificity and sensibility separately, for both Via and Pap test.

Third paragraph, 4th sentence: please define LCA.

Third paragraph, last sentence (objective of the study):
The 2 objectives of the paper are not very clear. Please revise the sentences about the aims of the paper to make it clearer.

Methods section

Please give in the second paragraph the sample size (total n=?)

Second paragraph:
Why women aged from 25-55 in your study? Is this range impact your results (could be discussed in the Discussion)?

3rd paragraph:
First sentence: for clarity I suggest to mention the four tests (VIA, Pap, HPV, Colp/biop)

8th paragraph:
Please give how the dichotomous categorization was done.
What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.