Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of HPV high and low risk types in cervical samples of the Italian general population: a population based study.

Version: 2 Date: 10 May 2010

Reviewer: Michel Segondy

Reviewer's report:

The presentation of the paper has been improved in the current version. However the paper remains too long and it should be substantially shortened.

Major point:
An explanation should be given about the apparent increase in HPV prevalence in Southern Italy. Recent change in the sexual behaviour of this population?

Minor points:
Page 5: The sentence "The total population in 2007 was 5.71 and 1.18 million women for southern Italy and Rome and province, respectively" is not clear. Please, clarify.
Page 6:
- Sample collection: Citech, Qiagen: please, specify cities and countries
- HPV testing: HCII, Digene sample conversion kit: please, indicate the manufacturers
Page 7: Typing procedure. Do not underline "DNA extraction". The sentence should be written as follows: For DNA extraction, 1.5 ml of sample....

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests