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: 8 May 2010

Reviewer: Santiago Melón

Reviewer’s report:

Second review of the manuscript entitled “Prevalence of HPV high and low risk types in cervical samples of the Italian general population: a population based study”

The corrections made by the authors are in line with my first review and have improved the manuscript

Finally, minor corrections or discretionary revisions could be made:
- Don’t start a paragraph with numbers, i.e. in page 10 it will be simpler: “In this study, 3817 women.....”
- I don’t find: “high and low risk HPV (HR HPV or LR HPV)”
- In page 11 they repeat three times p value: one is enough.
- For first sentence in discussion (page13) I suggest: “The overall prevalence of HPV in Italy is higher than ...., as it is shown in table 4.”
- In page 14, I don’t understand: “Figure 2 compares the curves of HR HPV prevalence of infection by age in the Italian studies published until now: WHILE they show .....”
- In the conclusions of the abstract (page 1), I also suggest for first sentence: “Because cervical cancer incidence and Pap test coverage is lower in southern than in northern Italy, a lower prevalence of high-risk infections in the general population was expected in the south. However, prevalence .....”

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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