Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of HPV infection among Greek women attending a gynecological outpatient clinic.

Version: 1 Date: 10 March 2009

Reviewer: Catterina Ferreccio

Reviewer’s report:

This is a small study of prevalence of HPV in a convenience sample of women consulting an outpatient obstetrics clinic in some place in Greece. It is easy to follow and used the proper statistical analyses.

It has some aspects that require Minor Essential Revisions:

In methods
1. Needs better description of the study area, and the base population attending this hospital, how representative is of the Greek maternity population.
2. State selection criteria, refusal rate, are pregnant women included?, or women with a recent delivery?
3. Did they sign an informed consent?
4. Who interviewed the patients?
5. DNA detection: should list the HPV types studied

In results
1. Figure 1 will benefit if sample size of each age category is included
2. It may also benefit of a confidence interval in the bars or a p value for the differences by age.

The discussion:
1. Should compare the type of subjects included in the various HPV studies they mention with theirs. In particular the differences between convenience samples like theirs with population-based random samples.
2. Should try to interpret the results of the comparisons.
3. It is unclear the statement ”since the outpatient clinic is a referral one they give us important information regarding the prevalence of HPV infection among young and middle aged women…” explain

In the conclusions
Do not repeat the results “The number of sexual partners and alcohol consumption were the most significant risk factors for HPV infection, followed by young age and poor income…”
Needs English editing

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests