Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Genital warts and infection with human immunodeficiency virus in high-risk women in Burkina Faso: a longitudinal study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 1 November 2010

**Reviewer:** Leslie Massad

**Reviewer’s report:**

This manuscript reports on rates of genital warts and HIV infection among women in Burkina-Faso. The paper provides novel insights into the interaction between genital warts and HIV. In any revision, the authors should consider the following points (all should be considered major/compulsory revisions):

**Minor essential revisions**

**Results**

1. In the first paragraph, note significant differences between HIV+ and HIV- women (older, fewer partners, more contraceptive nonusers). Was marital status available? If so, did it differ between HIV+ and HIV- women?

2. The second paragraph should reference Table 1, where these numbers are provided. To avoid redundancy, they should not be given in both places. How many women had ASCUS/ASC-H, AGC, or cancer? If no, state that. In Table 1, break out all categories--do not report LSIL/HISL (misspelled).

3. In the third paragraph, give a P-value for the difference in GW prevalence between HIV+ and HIV- women. In the multivariate analysis, there should be 2 models (for all women, comparing HIV+ vs HIV- and for only HIV+ women, stratifying by CD4 count and HAART use). What factors entered the model? Are they the same as those listed in Table 2 or different?

4. In the paragraph on incidence, list P value for differences across HIV/CD4 strata in the text, not just the table. In the multivariate model, again include a separate model incorporating CD4 stratum and HAART use. Was HAART use significant after controlling for CD4 count?

5. Finally, in the persistence model, add another model for HIV+ women alone including HAART use and CD4 count, as above. Clarify if the results given in the last 2 sentences of the section on persistence are for univariate or multivariate analyses.

6. The authors conclude that HPV6 but not HPV11 was associated with prevalent and incident GWs. What was their power to detect an association with HPV11 when only 13 women had HPV11? If low, then the authors should note that they did not find an association but larger studies will be required to determine if one is present.
Discussion

6. Statements about the impact of HAART on GW prevalence/incidence/persistence should be reassessed if new multivariable models reveal new relationships.

Tables

7. In Table 1, rather than medians, give number (percentage) of women with CD4 >500, 200-500, and <200. Also, what number (percentage) of women had undetectable HIV RNA levels?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no financial competing interests. I am working on a paper exploring genital warts in a different cohort.