Reviewer's report

Title: Human papillomavirus (HPV) genotype distribution in Madrid and correlation with cytological data

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2011

Reviewer: Gary Clifford

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a cross-sectional study of HPV type-specific prevalence in different grades of cervical lesions detected through screening in Madrid, Spain. The study is relatively small, with results confirming that of other studies. Although it does not add a great deal to overall knowledge on this topic, data may be of some use locally.

Minor Essential revisions

Please report the HPV positivity in the different lesions grades that led to the selection of HPV positive cases. This helps get an idea of the quality of cytological diagnosis and/or HPV testing.

Data on type distribution in grades less than cancer should not be over-interpreted in terms of prevention of cancer. We know that there is an enormous shift in type-distribution, even between HSIL and cancer. The kind of description in the present study helps more to understand what impact HPV vaccination might have on HPV-based screening programs (e.g. number of cases referred for an HPV-positive test).

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests