Reviewer's report

Title: An Appropriate Interval of Pap Smear Screening Protocol for HIV-Infected Women: A 5.5-Year Retrospective Cohort Study

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2010

Reviewer: tanvier omar

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS:

BACKGROUND:

Paragraph 2, sentence 4

A point previously raised. Please see original comments.

I suggest the authors either remove “because of an insensitive test” or add “this may either reflect an incident lesion or reflect a prevalent lesion missed on PAP smear.”

Paragraph 4, bracketed area

A typographical error – you’ve repeated low grade squamous intra-epithelial lesion; the second one should read High Grade squamous intra-epithelial lesion.

DISCUSSION: Paragraph 2, sentence 6 and CONCLUSION:

As stated in the original comments on this paper, the findings of this paper do not support 6 monthly PAP smears for 3.5 years. See previous detailed comments. The fact that Thailand does not have a National screening programme in place would add weight to this as valuable screening resources will be utilized for a debatable benefit.

Advise again that these research findings be reported without informing screening intervals as the data does not support the recommendations. Alternatively, please motivate, in the light of all comments submitted, why you think these claims are valid.

Further advise revising the title in the light of statement above.

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

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