Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of Human Papillomavirus infection in women undergoing routine cervical cancer screening in Spain: the CLEOPATRE study

Version: 2 Date: 1 May 2012

Reviewer: Tim Read

Reviewer's report:

Good paper which will make a valuable addition to the literature on HPV from the pre-vaccination era. My comments are minor and can be left to the authors discretion:

1. the paper is rather long and sometimes verbose. It could easily be shortened by 10% without losing any information and this would also make it more readable. Start by tightening the description of the logistic regression method.

2. Minor edits:
   P 1 line 8 move "being" to after HPV 16
   P9 Add “status” after “unmarried”
   P13 Change “incrementing” to increasing
   The tables would look neater if the odds ratios were limited to one decimal place, except when you want to emphasise they are greater or less than 1.0.

3. I didn't see a definition for "systematic condom use" - I may have missed it.

4. The authors may want to point out that these data reinforce knowledge that cervical HPV is acquired early in a woman’s sex life and that HPV vaccine programs are best aimed at schoolgirls before they have commenced sexual activity.

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:

My employer, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (Alfred Health) receives payment for the conduct of HPV vaccine studies from Merck.