Reviewer’s report

Title: Difference in overall and age-specific prevalence of human papillomavirus infection in Italy: evidence from NTCC trial

Version: 3 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Hormuzd Katki

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for addressing my comments.

I’m disappointed in the lack of interest in stratifying the analysis by cytologic result, because I think HPV prevalence will have potentially different and interesting trends by cytology. For example, HPV prevalence in HSIL might be constant with age. For other cytologic results, HPV prevalence might decrease with age, but the effect of perimenopause might cause sudden drops for certain cytologies (e.g. ASCUS) but not others. I looked at the paper you referred me to, but the age ranges are too broad. You have so much data, it would easy for you to consider this issue.

If you feel you have done enough for this paper, then that’s fine. My suggestion can be reserved for future research.

But because I don’t think you’ve investigated the potential impact of perimenopause thoroughly enough, I don't think you can end your abstract by claiming that there is no influence of perimenopause on HPV prevalence.

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