Reviewer's report

Title: HIV Associated High-Risk HPV Infection among Nigerian Women

Version: 1 Date: 25 August 2013

Reviewer: Abraham Peedicayil

Reviewer's report:

This article looks at the prevalence of HPV infection in HIV positive and HIV negative women in cancer screening clinics of a teaching hospital in Nigeria. It is a well conducted and well written study that would be of interest to researchers in this field.

The observations that HPV is more common in HIV positive women and that there are more multiple infections has been well documented. The interest in this study is mainly on the genotypes of hrHPV seen in Africa in both HIV positive and negative women. It is important to know if the observation of nonHPV 16 / 18 is explained by prior infection or vaccination. Type specific antibody levels might be useful in answering this.

Major changes:

1. Some information on the HIV infected women such as duration of HIV infection, CD4 counts and whether on antiretroviral therapy.
2. How many of these women had cervical intraepithelial neoplasia or invasive cervical cancer?

Minor changes:

1. In the abstract, the numbers of HIV positive and negative women seems to be switched. There should be consistency in comparing HIV positive women to HIV negative women and not vice versa.
2. Reference numbers should be before the full stop.
3. Aim of the study should be clearly stated.
4. In the discussion, "women in Thai" should read 'women in Thailand'
5. What type of brush was used to collect the specimen?
6. SAS institute is located in Cary and not Gary.
7. Were any of the women vaccinated against HPV 16 and 18?
8. Reference category for all variables to be mentioned in Table 3 and also to indicate if variables were categorical or continuous.
9. Confidence intervals for the prevalence estimates.

Discretionary changes:
1. Reference to studies from Europe and the Indian sub-continent
2. Comparison to studies on tissues and other methods of HPV detection
3. Comparsion to HPV prevalence in men

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests