Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and type distribution of human papillomavirus among adult women diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer in New Zealand

Version: 1 Date: 28 April 2014

Reviewer: M. Ruhul Quddus

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Minor Essential Revisions:

Materials and Methods:
It should be specified what “gene” was amplified along with the HPV DNA to serve as control?

General comments:

The authors excluded Stage 1a patients from study on the ground that the volume of cancer in the paraffin block may not be adequate. This is not a valid concern as this is a PCR based study with DNA amplification. I think this is a flaw of the study. The stage 1a cancers should have been included. Having said that I think this manuscript should be accepted for publication. It will, as the authors claimed, fill up epidemiologic data gap in New Zealand.

The authors may consider changing the title to specify “1b and higher stage cervical cancer”.

Some recently published literature including the one in Human Pathology 2014; 45, 303-309 may be discussed and added for completeness.