Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Types of Rectal Douches Used for Anal Intercourse: Results from an International Survey

Version: 1 Date: 6 November 2013

Reviewer: Alex Carballo-Dieuez

Reviewer’s report:

I submitted a review before, that apparently got lost. So, in summary, I only suggest some discretionary revisions:

1) It seems that the assessment did not include frequency of anal intercourse. Could that be a confounding factor? For example, that those who douche more frequently also have more sexual occasions, which in turn could explain their higher likelihood to have STIs?

2) Do the authors have any possible interpretations about the differences they found? For example, why are douchers more likely to be older than non-douchers? (Is douching a behavior that is learned over time? Does the muscular tonicity of the rectum change with age making douching more necessary?) Why does douching appear to have different prevalence by geographical location?

3) Is there any potential explanation for the association observed between douching and substance use? Could it be that individuals who “party” (e.g., engage in prolonged sessions of substance use and sex) are more likely to prep for such events, thus douching to cleanse themselves?

4) Were there reports of participants douching before and after sexual intercourse?

5) Given the wide variety of locations were respondents lived, please indicate how you managed to “include an image-based list of douches available commercially” at each location.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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’