Author's response to reviews

Title: Human papillomavirus infections in women seeking cervical Papanicolaou cytology of Durango, Mexico: prevalence and genotypes.

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Attached please find a new version of our manuscript that had been modified according to the reviewers' comments. In addition, please find below our response to each of the reviewers' comments on a point-by-point basis.

We hope the new version of the manuscript may have more success for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Yours faithfully,

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RESPONSE TO THE REVIEWERS' COMMENTS

Reviewer: Silvia Cavalcanti

1) We were unable to test for HPV genotypes 31, 35 and 58 because of financial reasons. We had to look for the most prevalent HPV genotypes in Mexico (HPV 16 and 18). Results indicate that about 25% of our samples contained HPV genotypes other than 16, 18, and 33. Further studies in the future should clarify the frequency of those less common HPV genotypes.

2) We were unable to test for other sexually transmitted diseases because of financial reasons.

3) Concerning English language review, the manuscript has been reviewed by an English teacher.

Reviewer: Alejandro M. Garcia-Carranca.
1) With respect to the quality control of extracted DNA, we inferred that good quality DNA was obtained, because MW>20 kb for the genomic human DNA analyzed by means of 1% agarose electrophoresis and stained with ethidium bromide was found. In addition, the latter was confirmed by obtaining positive results when analyzed for a IGF2 amplification.

2) Concerning details on conditions of PCR analysis, we provided sequences of the primers used: Amplification of the sequence containing E6 region of HPV 16, 18 and 33 was performed. The sequences were: forward common, 5’AAGGGCGTAACCGAAATCGGT3’; reverse 16, 5’GTTTGCAGCTCTGTGCATA3’; 18, 5’GTGGTGCTAGTTCCGTGCACA3’, 33, 5’GTCTCCAATGCTTGGCACA3’. The amplified products correspond to 140 bp for HPV 16 and 18, and 141 bp for HPV 33.

Data about the concentrations of Mg++, primers, Taq polymerase, dNTP, tetramethylene sulfide, and DNA in each 50 ul reaction was added.

3) Concerning the high frequency of HPV type 16 found in our study, we would like to comment that this is the first study performed in Durango city, and we do not have any reference to compare with. Further studies in the future may confirm our results. A representative gel of HPV genotyping was added.

4) More references about results of Mexican studies on HPV were added.

5) Abstract. We have corrected the information with respect to the studies in developing countries.

6) Tables have been corrected. In Table 2, the total number is indeed 498 instead of 484. In Tables 2 and 3, percentages were not used anymore. We have used now proportions. In Table 4, HGIL and LGIL were replaced by HSIL and LSIL, respectively.

7) We have added information on the sensitivity of MY PCR primer system.