Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 13 September 2005

Reviewer: Alejandro M. Garcia-Carranca

Reviewer’s report:

General
Although several of the critics were correctly answered, clarification concerning PCR controls is still needed

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

From the point of view of this reviewer, it could be important if authors could indicate what are the exact number of samples tested randomly for the presence of an IGF2 amplification? From their statement, it seems that all samples tested for IGF2 were positive, is this correct? I believe this is central issue for this particular manuscript, since a very low prevalence for HPV was reported, and no controls for DNA integrity are shown.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Have the authors tested lower concentrations of DNA? Was a DNA concentration curve obtained for PCR. Why could HPV 16 prevalence be different to other regions in Mexico? The statements made under the discussion sections concerning higher risk for these women should be restated.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
“I declare that I have no competing interests”