Author's response to reviews

Title: Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection in pregnant women and mother-to-child transmission of genital HPV genotypes: a prospective study in Spain

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Dear Editors of *BMC Infectious Diseases*,

I am pleased to submit for the consideration of the editors of *BMC Infectious Diseases* an original manuscript entitled, “Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection in pregnant women and mother-to-child transmission of genital HPV genotypes: a prospective study in Spain”.

The aim of the paper is to assess in a low-risk country the prevalence and determinants of HPV infection in pregnant women as well as perinatal transmission and persistence of HPV types in infants and their mothers. To that end we carried out an HPV prevalence study in 943 pregnant women followed by a prospective study of a cohort of 143 HPV-positive or HPV-negative mothers and their infants during 2 years follow-up. Our study confirms that high-risk HPV genotypes can be vertically transmitted to the child, although the risk of vertical transmission is relatively low. HPV persistence in infants is a rare event. We also contribute evidence suggesting that vertical transmission is not the sole source of HPV infections in infants and that horizontal mother-to-child transmission plays also a role. We also report on precise prevalence estimates and type-specific distributions of HPV infections in pregnant women, in women at the 6-week postpartum visit and in their offspring at several points during the 2-year follow-up.

We believe that this paper will certainly be of high interest to the wide professional backgrounds of the journal readership since they bridge several medical and public health specialties. The study is also timely with the introduction of current HPV vaccines.

I am pleased to declare that all authors of this research paper have directly participated in the conception, planning, execution, and review of data or in the critical writing of the study findings, as well as that they have read and approved the submitted final version and therefore take full responsibility for the integrity of the contents of the paper.

Protocols were approved by the local ethical committees of both the Maternity Hospital, where the study was carried out, and the Ciutat Sanitaria i Universitaria de Bellvitge, where the coordinating center of the study was located.

The manuscript has not been copyrighted or published previously and is not now under consideration for publication elsewhere. The contents of this manuscript will not be copyrighted, submitted or published elsewhere while acceptance by *BMC Infectious Diseases* is under consideration.
I am looking forward to receiving the evaluation of the Journal.
Thank you for considering this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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