Author’s response to reviews

Title: Risk of human papillomavirus-related cancers among patients with end-stage renal disease - an observational cohort study

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors at BMC Nephrology

Thank you very much for your comments on our manuscript.

Please find the comment and answer enclosed below in this document.

A revised manuscript has also been submitted.

Word count for the abstract: 255 and for the revised manuscript: 3548

Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any other question or further explanations are needed.

Sincerely,

Lars Skov Dalgaard
Eric Engels:

Minor essential revision

Comment:
The authors have added brief comment on the age at diagnosis for HPV-related cancers in ESRD patients and the general population (see Results, page 11 of the PDF). This result is not especially informative. In particular, the ages at cancer diagnosis are strongly influenced by the age distribution of the underlying populations at risk of cancer. We recently wrote a paper on this point for cancers in HIV-infected people (Shiels et al. Ann Intern Med 2010; 153:452). Perhaps the ages are younger in the ESRD population because older people with ESRD have a very high mortality and do not contribute to the at-risk population for very long. The high mortality in older ESRD patients would skew the age distribution of the ESRD population younger. All of this complicates interpretation of the age at cancer diagnosis finding. Because this is not a focus of the present paper, and the authors do not comment on this result in the Discussion, I suggest dropping it from the paper.

Answer:

We agree and have dropped it from the paper