Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 15 May 2013

Reviewer: Eric Engels

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revision

Background, first para: “Oncogene” should read “Oncogenic”.

Discretionary revision

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.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 I have no competing interests.