Reviewer’s report

Title: History of Pap-smear in HIV-positive women in Northern Italy: A cross-sectional study

Version: 3 Date: 19 February 2010

Reviewer: Abraham Peedicayil

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This is a cross sectional study in which a self administered questionnaire was used to determine the use of Pap smears by HIV positive women in the Emilia Romagna region in Northern Italy. There was a good response from the women who were invited to participate from the infectious disease clinics. It is not clear where the other HIV positive women in the region (who were not invited) receive their follow up and if they were in any way different.

The percentages of colposcopy and conization (p 7) need to be verified. Discussion should include whether the Pap smears are being offered to all HIV positive women. Is the 61% Pap smears reported in the previous year due to a compliance problem, advice failure or an access issue?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.