Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of primary HPV-DNA testing in relation to visual inspection methods for cervical cancer screening in rural China: an epidemiologic and cost-effectiveness modelling study

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Reviewer: Mari Nygård

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Scientific paper by Shi et al. on “Evaluation of primary HPV-DNA testing in relation to visual inspection methods for cervical cancer screening in rural China: an epidemiology and cost-effectiveness modeling study”

- Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Response to the criticism raised in the Major Compulsory Revision p.1
   The authors have revised their conclusion and abstract, and discussed the degree of uncertainty while estimating the key outcome variables: incidence of and mortality form cervical cancer in Rural China.
   They also provided a more balanced presentation and discussion of the study results.
   No further comments.
2. On page 6, the WHO World Standard Population was used, with ref. to Ahmad, OB. In fact, Ahmad et al introduces in this publication a new standard population, which has been debated (Bray, F., Guilloux, A., Sankila, R., and Parkin, D. M. Practical implications of imposing a new world standard population. Cancer Causes Control, 13: 175-82, 2002).
   The authors have responded to this critics and incorporated clarifying sections into the article. However, I will encourage the authors to read the article by Bray et al regarding purpose of the standard population and usefulness of few standard populations.
   3. No further comments.
4. No further comments
5. No further comments

- Minor Essential Revisions
1. The authors have revised tables and figures and combined the figure 3 and 4 and providing some extra information in text.
2. Results: §1 “…oncogenic HPV infection” please define this more specifically..
   Newly added reference does point out the complexity in deciding the oncogenic potential HPV types. It is easy for the 8 most obvious types but there is debate
on the oncogenic potential regarding some HPV types. I would suggest, although it is not the focus of this paper that authors, just clarifying which types were considered as hr in the IARC study in rural China.

3. - 6. No further comments

Discretionary Revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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