Reviewer's report

Title: Comprehensive Knowledge about Cervical Cancer is Low among Women in Northwest Ethiopia.

Version: 1 Date: 19 June 2012

Reviewer: Eric Suba

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General comment:
This manuscript reports the results of a cross-sectional survey of a community in northwest Ethiopia. The survey measured community knowledge of important facts regarding cervical cancer. The survey documented that knowledge regarding important facts about cervical cancer was poor among the women in this community. This is an important observation, as cervical cancer is a preventable and curable disease which is an important cause of death in Ethiopia.

Suggested minor essential revision:
The authors state on page 8 of the manuscript (second sentence of final paragraph on the page) that "The general recommendation for Pap smear is women should have Pap smear once a year 3 years after the initiation of sexual intercourse." This recommendation is no longer appropriate in high-resource settings, let alone for resource-limited settings such as Ethiopia. In resource-limited settings, discussions regarding optimal screening intervals are esoteric. Efforts to achieve comprehensive coverage should focus instead on ensuring that each woman in high-risk target demographic groups is screened once before any woman is screened a second time (reference: Stjernsward J, Eddy D, Luthra U, Stanley K. Plotting a new course for cervical cancer screening in developing countries. World Health Forum 1987;8:42–5).

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.