Reviewer's report

**Title:** Human Papillomavirus-associated oropharyngeal cancer: an observational study of diagnosis, prevalence and prognosis in a UK population

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 February 2013

**Reviewer:** MEIJIN NAKAYAMA

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an article analyzing human papillomavirus-associated oropharyngeal cancer. The article is well designed and the analyses well conducted. The authors are recommended to comment in detail for the following points:

1) The contents of surgical interventions were not detailed. What kind of approaches was incorporated for the treatment, transoral or external approach? Did all patients who undergo surgery receive simultaneous neck dissections? Was there any correlation between different types of surgery and positivity of HPV?

2) The prognosis of HPV negative group was poor regardless of previous treatment, surgery or RT. Based on the current analyses, how the authors define the treatment selections, surgery or RT or CCRT, to the HPV positive and negative patients?

3) In order to reduce the incidence of distant metastases and second primaries, what do the authors suggest for the future management in this group of patients analyzed?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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