Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of cervical infection with HPV type 16 and 18 in Vietnam: Implication for vaccine campaign

Version: 2 Date: 1 November 2012

Reviewer: Rebecca Perkins

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This article provides information about HPV 16 and 18 prevalence in Vietnam, which the authors state is important information prior to expanding the national vaccine program to include HPV vaccination.

Strengths of this study include: geographic diversity of participants, large number of participants, high percentage of those approached agreeing to participate.

Weaknesses include: Lack of corroborating cytology or pathology diagnoses. For example, only 3.1%-7.4% of women may have HPV16/18 infections, but these women may represent 50% of the high grade dysplasia detected in the sample. Information on this and/or the rates of HPV-16/18 in cervical cancer tumor samples in Vietnam would also be important information to have when evaluating the projected impact of a national vaccination campaign.

Minor Essential Revisions:
Overall, the study is methodologically sound and merits publication. The English is very good for non-native speakers, but the manuscript would benefit from additional proofreading by a native English speaker.

Discretionary Revisions:
1) Abstract: As “married” was an inclusion criteria, state this in methods (i.e. a total of 1500 married women participated in round 1....) not in results.
2) Background: In addition to the incidence presented, please add a statistic about how common cervical cancer is among Vietnamese women compared with other cancers (i.e. most common, 5th most common, etc.).
3) Methods and results are clear.
4) Discussion: This section would benefit from a discussion of the weaknesses outlined above. If any data about the prevalence of HPV 16/18 in cervical dysplasia or cancer specimens in Vietnam has been previously published, it should be included and the relevance of the results to a national vaccination program examined. If not, this should be added to limitations.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.