Reviewer's report

Title: Human papillomavirus prevalence and type-distribution in women with cervical lesions: A prospective study in Sri Lanka

Version: 1 Date: 11 November 2013

Reviewer: Mohammed El Mzibri

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Major compulsory revisions
1) Introduction: Fairly superficial and not enough data is given concerning cervical cancer prevalence and HPV infection in Sri Lanka.

2) In the methodological section, please give the number of recruited women. Initially, recruitment of 200 women (100 ICC and 100 CIN2/3) was planned, but only 106 were retained. Among them, 98 were diagnosed with ICC and only 8 cases were diagnosed with CIN2/3. This merit more explanations.

3) It is widely accepted that HPV type distribution is calculated on the basis of total HPV positive cases. In this paper, HPV16 is detected in 66 cases representing 67.3% of all cases with ICC (66/98) but is present in 79.5% of HPV positive ICC cases (66/83). This frequency is in agreement with reported data showing that HPV16 ranged between 74%-77%.

4) In the discussion section, the difference between the present study and the previously reported data from Sri Lankan women could be due to sampling bias but also to presence of false negative cases. Indeed, it’s not mentioned that all samples were positive for the internal control and it would be interesting to test all samples for #-globin to be sure that all extracted DNA were able to be amplified by PCR.

Minor essential revisions
1) I think it’s difficult to assume that the observed fewer number of multiple infection cases could be due to the lower prevalence of HPV in Sri Lankan women. Many socio-cultural factors may be discussed in this field.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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