Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of high-risk Human papillomaviruses type distribution in cervical cancer in Sichuan province of China

Version: 2 Date: 23 May 2008

Reviewer: Gary M Clifford

Reviewer's report:

This paper has much improved in response to the reviewers comments. Some small remaining issues:

1) One point that has now become clear is that the Nested PCR was only performed on the one-step PCR negative samples. If you add an adjunct test, of course the sensitivity will go up. However, this is not a head-to-head comparison of the sensitivity, as maybe the nested PCR would miss some of the one-step PCR positives. The sentence "nested TS PCR showed greater sensitivity than the one-step PCR...." in the discussion is not valid.

Thus, it should be clearly explained, including in the tables, that we are talking about the ADDITION of one-step PCR to nested PCR to increase sensitivity.

2) Please describe the one-step PCR first in Table 1.

3) I still feel that the simple conclusion that HPV58, 52 and 59 are more prevalent than HPV18 in cervical cancer is open to misconception, given that many of these HPV50’s were found in the presence of HPV16 and are probably not causing the tumours.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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