**Reviewer’s report**

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 3 June 2008

**Reviewer:** Magdalena Grce

**Reviewer’s report:**

Additional correction to make to the manuscript:

**Abstract – Conclusion, complete it:**

Our data demonstrate that, besides HPV 16, which was found to be the most prevalent type, HPV types 58, 52 and 59 are more prevalent than HPV18 in women with cervical cancer in the Sichuan area of China.

**Background – 1st paragraph, give approximative numbers:**

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women; each year approximately 500,000 women worldwide are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer and more than half of them die of this disease [1]. Eighty percent of these deaths occur in developing countries. In China, there are annually about 46,000 cases, and cervical cancer presents a major health problem [1].

**Background – 2nd paragraph, define PCR:**

The most widely used method for HPV detection in cervical cancers is based on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using either consensus or type-specific primers for the amplification of HPV DNA.

**Methods:**

- Delete dots after the subtitles and the each assay should be in singular.
- DNA extraction. DNA was extracted from frozen tissue specimens by DNeasy Tissue Kit (QIAGEN), according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Move the paragraph “MY09/11 PCR assay” before “One-step TS PCR assay”.
- One-step TS PCR assay. All specimens were tested by one-step TS PCR assays using type-specific primers for HPV types 16, 18, 52, 58 and 59, which were previously described by Sotlar et al. [17] (Table 1). The PCR was performed ……. 
- Nested TS PCR assays. To increase the sensitivity of the detection for HPV16, 18, 52, 58 and 59, the specimens negative by the One-step TS PCR for any genotype were further amplified by Nested TS PCR. The TS primers for HPV types 16, 18, 52, 58 and 59 of the first round of amplifications were designed specifically for this study to amplify a wider region (raging 619 to 662 bp) from those targeted by primers used in the One-step TS PCR assay, which were used in the second round of amplification of the Nested TS PCR (Table 1).
- Delete the following because it is incorrect and unnecessary if the previous sentence is adopted: “according to the consensus primer target region of NMPCR as previously described by Sotlar et al. [17], derived from the E6/E7 oncogenes of HPV types 16, 18, 52, 58 and 59, respectively, producing an amplicon of 619 to 662 bp (Table 1). The second round amplifications used the primers from the one-step TS PCR.”

- Subtitles and footnotes of the Table 1 should be also corrected:

- Primers for the first round amplifications of the Nested TS PCR*

- Primers for the One-step TS PCR and the second round of the Nested TS PCR**

- *designed specifically for this study; **designed by Sotlar et al. [17]

- DNA sequencing: Move this paragraph after the “Nested TS PCR assay” before “Statistical analysis”. Indicate the name of the kit used for sequencing as well as the company of the kit and sequencer.

Discussion
- page 10, line 1, after Sotler et al. insert the number of the reference: [17].
- page 10, line 7: Delete “employing” 3
- page 10, line 12, finish the sentence: ..., and it is difficult to cover all HPV types that could be found in precancer and cervical cancer [6, 7].
- page 11, line 9, insert “to”: This may be due in part to the fact that the…
- page 11, line 12 and 13, replace by more clear text: Therefore, the TS primers for HPV type 16, 18, 52, 58 and 59 for the first round of amplification of the Nested TS PCR assay were specifically designed for this study.

All along the paper keep always the same name of the assays with the capital letter: the One-step TS PCR, the Nested TS PCR.

Delete the footnote of the table 3 as the last column is indicating the same. Table 3 should precede Table 2 or better, combine both tables to one. For instance, add to the actual table 2 the results of the Nested TS PCR and call it: HPV detection by the MY09/11 PCR, the One-step TC PCR and the Nested TS PCR in cervical cancer specimens (N=190).

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.