Reviewer's report

Title: Interaction between polymorphisms of the Human Leukocyte Antigen and HPV-16 Variants on the risk of invasive cervical cancer

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Reviewer: Ingeborg Zehbe

Reviewer's report:

The data by Souza et al. suggest an association between HLA and HPV polymorphism when determining the risk for cervical cancer. This is a well written paper and the topic is important for tumor virology and immunology. The data are sound and the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The authors found that two frequent HPV16 E6 variants, the Asian-American (AA) and the European 350G showed an inverse correlation for DRB1*04 and DQB1*05.

Page 3, paragraph 2, reference 6 should also include more recently published papers on the topic by for instance Assadurian et al., 2007, Chakrabarti et al., 2004 and Lichtig et al., 2006. The same on page 9, top paragraph.

Results, page 6: they report double infections, how did they monitor for contamination?

Page 7, paragraph 1, last sentence is not clear.

Page 8, top paragraph: the 83L was inversely correlated with DRB1*04; was 83V then correlated with DRB1*04?

Page 9, second last paragraph, last sentence is not clear.

Page 10, Conclusions: Sentence should read: Taken together our data suggest that HPV-16 variability influences the association between*..

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.