Reviewer's report

Title: The quality of life of patients with genital warts: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 27 October 2009

Reviewer: Sarah Woodhall

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a study on an important and timely topic. The objectives, methods and results are clear and well described. The conclusions appear to be supported by the data, and the authors acknowledge the important potential bias of their recruitment method.

Discretionary revisions

1) Additional reference
   The authors may wish to refer to an additional, very recently published paper (Jeynes et al, 2009. ‘Shame on you’ – the psychological impact of genital warts. Int J STD & AIDs, 2009 20:557-560)

2) Illness paradigm
   Was the concept of the illness paradigm used when designing the study? If so, it might be useful to state this and provide a brief statement about how the use of this theoretical framework influenced the topic guide/study design.

3) Duration of genital warts
   The inclusion criteria states that people must have had their warts for at least 3 months. As people were asked in the focus group how long they had been suffering from GW, it would be useful to know if there was a spread, or whether the majority of people had been suffering for a long time with warts. If available, this information would be useful in establishing the context of the focus groups and the responses.

Minor essential revisions

1) First author in reference 3 should be Lacey not Lasey.

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