Reviewer's report

Title: Testing for sexually transmitted infections in general practice - is it meeting need? A cross-sectional study in two contrasting English populations.

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2010

Reviewer: Kaveh Manavi

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This study aims to investigate an important issue. How can we convince GPs to carry out HIV and chlamydia testing?

The study’s solution is to show the marked differences between the number of tests carried out in GUM and that of GP practices in two different regions. I do not think this will provide strong enough argue for that end. In addition comparison of their activity with GUM clinics is not terribly helpful; GPs could argue that it is GUM clinics’ one of important roles to carry out HIV testing whereas not theirs.

They also investigate correlation between GPs’ age and HIV testing in their practices and not surprisingly to me, did not find any in one site.

How do the authors propose that by showing the difference, GPs would feel compelled to do more HIV testing?

The most important limitation of the study is that it is based on limited data available to the investigators and the degree of bias this could have caused.

In summary, unfortunately I am not convinced that the questions posed in this study would help to promote HIV testing amongst GPs. Studies that include patients’ clinical outcome would in my view make higher impact to this end.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.