Reviewer’s report

Title: Cervical cancer screening in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - A situational analysis

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2012

Reviewer: elisabete weiderpass

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript describe the socioeconomically differences between women that test positive compared to negative on a visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) for cervical precancerous lesions in Dar el Salaam, Tanzania. In addition, the authors describe the differences in socioeconomic characteristics, sexual behavior, HIV and HPV status according to participation in the cervical cancer screening in Dar el Salaam. The association between HR-HPV and HIV status in screened and unscreened women is briefly mentioned.

This manuscript is very well written. However, the contribution to science is rather small. With this dataset it should be possible to describe the correlation between the VIA test result and HPV status, correlation between sexual behavior and VIA test result etc.

Minor revision:

The authors state in the abstract and discussion: "Women who are of poor socioeconomic status are more likely to be VIA positive and thus at risk of developing cervical cancer”.

Does poor socioeconomic status also include high parity and being married at a young age?

If so, how do the authors know that a woman with high parity or married at a young age has a poor socioeconomic status?

Introduction:

• Reference nr 1 is lacking information
• A screening program based on Pap smears requires different steps, …

change to:
• A screening program based on Pap smears requires several steps, …

Discussion:

• … women from lower socio economic classes have less access …

change to:
• … women from lower socioeconomic classes have less access …