Reviewer’s report

Title: Uptake of Liquid-Based Cytology as an adjunct to conventional cytology for cervical screening in NSW: A cross-sectional and population-based cohort analysis

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Reviewer: Joseph Monsonego

Reviewer’s report:

This is a population based cohort which analyse the prevalence and the predictors of use of LBC in Australia NSW state.
The paper is well written, understandable and clearly presented.
With 30% of LBC uptake, the authors consider that this is a good participation while the test is not reimbursed.
The strengths of the study are:
 .setting where high coverage of the target population is shown
 .high- number of screened population
 .small proportion, with no identifiable population

However this work raises some questions
- The authors provide no tangible evidence or argument for the superiority of LBC compared to conventional pap ,then it is difficult to understand why the uptake of this non reimbursed screening test is high. Authors should explain and develop other arguments in favor of LBC such as reduction of unsatisfactory samples and most importantly the ability to perform molecular testing such as HPV testing .The vial can be used in primary screening for contesting or as a reflex test for triage of ASCUS Pap
- The authors indicate that age is a good predictor of uptake in particular for the 30 -44 years group. As the coverage is much higher in this younger population this indicator of uptake is probably a bias. A multivariate analysis would be helpful .
- The authors argue on equity as low resource groups have less uptake .Again this predictive factor could be only the consequence of the lowest participation to the screening of this population

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest in the field