Reviewer’s report

Title: High-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) screening and detection in normal, healthy patient saliva samples: a pilot cluster randomized study.

Version: 1 Date: 10 February 2011

Reviewer: Germano Orrù

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Reviewer Comments:

Manuscript Title: High-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) screening and detection in normal, healthy patient saliva samples: a pilot cluster randomized study.

by : O Turner et al.,

This paper describes a screening for human papilloma virus type 16, in saliva samples from healthy patients.

There were a number of questions raised when I read the article:

# Other authors have detected different HPV genotypes in oral samples, in particular genotype 18 [1-5]. How could these data influence your epidemiological analysis?

# Several recent papers have presented epidemiological results regarding HPV16 in the oral cavity [4, 6]. The authors should discuss in the manuscript whether these results are comparable. Please underline this point.

# The real time PCR methodology used for HPV quantisation is incomplete (primer sequences and PCR cycle are not reported).

I recommend that these revisions should be made before the manuscript could be further assessed for publication by BMC Oral health.

Sincerely
Prof. Germano Orrù

References:


3. Jiang Q, Zhang ZY: [The study of HPV prevalence in normal oral mucosa and oral squamous cell carcinoma]. Shanghai Kou Qiang Yi Xue 2007,


**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.