Author's response to reviews

Title: Screening and detection of human papillomavirus (HPV) high-risk strains HPV16 and HPV18 in healthy pediatric patient saliva samples from Nevada: a pilot study.

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Author's response to reviews:

Emilie Aimé
Executive Editor

The authors have revised the Methods section of this manuscript to include the original details of Informed Consent and Assent to Participate in Research for the study participants. They are as follows (Page 10, lines 191-199)

In brief, for the original saliva sample collections at CCSD and UNLV-SDM, parents and subjects were recruited onsite. Inclusion criteria: Informed Consent/Parent Permission was required and conducted onsite, as well as an Assent to Participate in Research for all children over the age of seven who were capable of reading. Exclusion criteria: subjects younger than seven years of age, subjects that declined to participate, and subjects with parents who declined to participate. Each patient sample was assigned a unique, randomly-generated number to prevent research bias, with the only demographic information regarding the saliva specimens: gender, age, and ethnicity of the original study participant. This current project was a retrospective analysis of these two collections of saliva samples.

We trust this provides sufficient information for further review of this manuscript. Should you require additional details or supporting documentation, we can provide these as an appendix.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Karl Kingsley