Reviewer's report

**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.

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 25 April 2012

**Reviewer:** tarik gheit

**Reviewer’s report:**

A recent pilot study provided new information about oral HPV status in healthy adults from Nevada, a state recently documented with rising rates of oropharyngeal cancers. The goal of present study is to provide more detailed information about oral prevalence of high-risk HPV among children and teenagers in Nevada. The topic raised by the paper is interesting for the understanding of the natural history of HPV infection in oral cavity. A small subset of saliva samples (2.5%) were found to harbor high-risk HPV16 and HPV18.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The authors only reported the prevalence for HPV16 and 18 giving only a partial view of the high risk HPV types prevalence in oral cavity.

Why the authors didn’t look for all the high risk HPV types using commercially available HPV assays?

The 3 samples HPV DNA positives should also be checked for RNA expression in order to see if these infections are actives.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

The authors reported the case of 3 males which are HPV positives without giving the ages of the corresponding participants, this information is relevant so it should be furnished by the authors.

Page 6, Lines 108 and 112. The authors wrote pPCR instead of qPCR

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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