Reviewer's report

Title: Awareness and knowledge of HPV, cervical cancer, and vaccines in young women after first delivery in Sao Paulo, Brazil

Version: 2 Date: 24 August 2010

Reviewer: Carrie Nielson

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The rationale for studying this population was not given in this manuscript, but is clear from the discussion section in their previous paper (ref 6). This information (i.e., high HPV prevalence but low oncogenic HPV prevalence) is important for readers to consider the utility of offering these women the HPV vaccine after sexual debut.

2. There was some information given to all participants about the HPV vaccine, which led to 100% of them indicating acceptability. This information should be completely described. For example, were its cost, effectiveness, side-effects, and alternatives to vaccination (i.e., regular screening) explained? If they were only told that the vaccine can prevent cervical cancer and genital warts, it is not surprising they would all agree, but this would not be very complete information for decision making purposes.

3. Abstract: Does the fact that it is a “public maternity hospital” (in Methods) imply they are “low income” (in Conclusions)? Please clarify the population base and the use of “low income” throughout the manuscript.

4. The reason for excluding income in the multivariable model is not given. Therefore, I’m not sure the appropriate model and adjusted PRs are presented.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Exclusion criteria should be stated, not referred to in a previous publication.

2. Why is it important that women know how cytological tests are performed?

3. “Ordinal gynecological test” should probably be “ordinary …”, although this phrase seems a bit ambiguous. Is the point that women should be asking for a Pap smear when they have their annual gynecologic exam?

4. Include in the background some information about vaccine approval and educational efforts in Brazil that are mentioned in the Discussion.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Is HPV vaccine contraindicated among pregnant women? Presumably these women were not receiving regular health care until they became pregnant but did have some contact with the health care system for prenatal care. Is post-delivery the first opportunity to offer this population a catch-up vaccine?
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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