Author's response to reviews

Title: Cervical dysplasia and cancer: use of hormonal contraceptives in Jamaican women

Authors:

Norma McFarlane-Anderson (norma.mcfarlaneanderson@uwimona.edu.jm)
Patience Bazuaye (patebazu@yahoo.com)
Maria Jackson (maria.jackson@uwimona.edu.jm)
Monica Smikle (monica.smikle@uwimona.edu.jm)
Horace Fletcher (horace.fletcher@uwimona.edu.jm)

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2008

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January 25, 2008

Dr. Lolu da-Silva

Senior Assistant Editor, BMC-series journals

Dear Dr. da-Silva

I have made the required formatting changes by including a competing interests section and the Authors' contributions.

In respect to the reviewers' comments, I have as far as is possible, dealt with their concerns. Included are the point-by-point responses.

Thank you for your assistance in helping me to get the manuscript published.

Yours truly

Norma McFarlane-Anderson

Reviewer: Dr. Chichareon

i. Comment 2.

(a) Types of information collected by questionnaire included demographic information, behavioural variables and sexual characteristics (see page 5, para 1).

(b) Regarding the categorization, the Bethesda classification was used and diagnoses were based on histology as well as cytology (see page 4, para 2).

ii. Comment 6. The title has been changed to include cervical cancer.
Reviewer: Dr. Berrington

i. Both clinics at the University Hospital of the West Indies serve as referral centres to women from all over the island. There is no reason to believe that the two groups are different (see page 4, para 2).

ii. I have included the response rates in the text (see page 5, para 1). There was no matching on age and it appears to be a chance finding.

iii. Table 1 has been revised and we hope it is now clearer.

iv. Table 2 describes the percentage of women exposed to hormonal contraceptives (HC) and depot medroxy progesterone acetate (DMPA) by presence and severity of disease.

v. I have included number of sexual partners in the logistic regression models as suggested and simplified the table. Number of sexual partners is added as a continuous variable.

vi. The comparison was between length of exposure =>4yrs versus <4 years.

vii. The point is very well taken and the text has been revised to reflect to your suggestions.