Author's response to reviews

Title: Molecular tests for human papillomavirus (HPV), Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae in liquid-based Pap cytology specimen

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Author's response to reviews:

February 4, 2009

Dear Editor:

This is a revision of the manuscript, MS: 3101307082365148, “Molecular tests for human papillomavirus (HPV), Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae in liquid-based Pap cytology specimen” submitted to be further reviewed for possible publication in the BMC Women’s Health.

The authors have followed to the best of their abilities the advices of the Reviewer and the Associate Editor in revising the manuscript.

The point-by-point full responses are attached on the following pages.

Ref. 28 is accepted for publication, In Press.

Ref. 29 and Ref. 63 are still under review. The Editors may use the words “unpublished data” to replace the titles of these two references in conformity with the Journal’s policy if this revision is accepted for publication before the review process for the two new references is completed.

There are no material changes other than corrections of typographic errors in this revision. The higher-resolution figures submitted in the revision are duplicates of the original.

All co-authors have reviewed and approved this revision.

Please inform the corresponding author if further revisions are needed for the Editorial consideration.

Sincerely,

Sin Hang Lee, MD
On behalf of all co-authors
Response to Reviewer’s report:

1. On sentence is inserted on page 20 “In our experience, for the detection of C trachomatis and N gonorrhoeae only, without considering the adequacy of cervicovaginal cellularity for cytology correlations, vaginal secretions collected on culture swabs can be rinsed in 95% ethanol for transportation and storage with comparable results.”

2. The molecular pages have been shortened. However, this paper involves molecular testing of three infective agents in routine clinical laboratories, each with its own challenging technical issues. The length of the paper is considered to be necessary to get the points across to some of the readers who are not familiar with the recent advances of molecular diagnostics.

In response to the Associate Editor’s comments:

1. Now one page 18, last paragraph, the 95% CIs for PPV, NPV, sensitivity and specificity, calculated by the exact methods have been included.

2. The phrase “the present study does not allow computing accuracy for histologically proven CIN” is also included in the same paragraph. A new 2009 publication, Ref. 44, is included in connection with the expanded discussion in this paragraph.