Author's response to reviews

Title: How protective is cervical cancer screening against cervical cancer mortality in developing countries? The Colombian case.

Authors:

Luz Angela Choconta-Piraquive (lachocontap@bt.unal.edu.co)
Nelson Alvis- Guzmán (nalvis@yahoo.com.mx)
Fernando De la Hoz- Restrepo (fpdelahozr@unal.edu.co)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Bogota, August 31, 2010


Dear editorial board:
We are submitting the new version of the MS “How protective is cervical cancer screening against cervical cancer mortality in developing countries? The Colombian case” with the changes you suggested.

Sincerely,

Luz Angela Chocontá Piraquive
Fernando de la Hoz Restrepo
Nelson Alvis
Conclusions: please add a Conclusions section following the Discussion. Alternately, you may change Discussion to Discussions and Conclusions.

Authors' contributions: Please use the following format as an example, including using initials to refer to each author's contribution: AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

“LAC participated in the design of the study, collected the information, performed the statistical analysis and wrote a draft of the manuscript. FH conceived and designed the study, gave advice on the analysis and participated in writing the final manuscript. NA gave advice on the design of the study, assessed the quality of the information on mortality and helped to write the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript”

Minor revisions (we can make these changes for you, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above)

Abstract: please change Objectives to Background and remove keywords from this section. R/ Done

Track changes: please remove. R/ Done

Further to the changes we sent, we would like to request that you add some context information to the Background section of the Abstract.

“Cervical cancer is one of the top causes of cancer morbidity and mortality in Colombia despite the existence of a national preventive program. Screening coverage with cervical cytology does not explain the lack of success of the program in reducing incidence and
mortality rates by cervical cancer. To address this problem an ecological analysis, at
department level, was carried out in Colombia to assess the relationship between cervical
screening characteristics and cervical cancer mortality rates.”