Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 9 March 2010

Reviewer: Magdalena Grce

Reviewer's report:

Although the topic is very interesting the paper is incorrectly presented. I guess that it is an epidemiological and not ecological analysis.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Material and methods are superficially presented; data collection and retrieval of the major parameters used in the study should be defined. The description of the statistical analysis is vague. The method by which the screening coverage, “Media deaths by year” and the “Screening variables” mentioned in Table 1 are evaluated should be carefully described.

In addition, in the Introduction section the cervical cancer screening policy and the health care system of Colombia should be described as well as the major differences of compared regions to emphases the observed differences. All this have to be supported by adequate references.

The discussion and conclusion are too simplified, probably because of the lack of knowledge of the already existing literature on the topic and event the specific one related to Colombia. The authors are strongly advised to consider investigating the corresponding literature before resubmission of their paper.

E.g.:


Wiesner-Ceballos C, Cendales-Duarte R, Tovar-Murillo SL. [Applying a cervical


Etc. At least some of the listed references should be cited.

Minor Essential Revisions:

The abbreviations should be correctly defined: National Department of Statistics (DANE, sp. Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística) (Reference: http://www.dane.gov.co); National Survey of Demography and Health (ENDS, sp. Encuesta Nacional de Demografía y Salud) (Reference: http://www.encolombia.com/salud/saludsex-portada.htm or other); C530, malignant neoplasm of endocervix, C531, malignant neoplasm of exocervix, etc.

Discretionary Revisions:

In Table 1 insert (%) following “Screening variables”

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.