The manuscript presents new and valuable information on the HPV Infection in Men (HIM) study, which examines the natural history of genital HPV infection in men. The main goal of the present work was to identify and assess the prevalence of individual HPV types among unclassified genital HPV specimens collected in the study population at enrollment, and examine associations with socio-demographic and behavioral characteristics.

These data complement previous publications by this group. I do believe that the additional information included in this manuscript warrants a new publication as an Original Article (Research) in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Below are some suggestions/recommendations that could enhance the manuscript.

Background.
- 2nd paragraph, line 4. The authors might consider adding a new reference on HPV type classification by Bouvard et al (2009), the most recent and currently widely used and accepted classification. (Minor essential revisions)

Methods. Typing of unclassified samples:
Why did authors analyze the FAP amplicons only by direct sequencing without cloning? An explanation would be appropriate, since the FAP system was designed to analyze cloned DNA by sequencing, but it is less successful for direct sequencing of amplicons (references 14 and 24) (Discretionary revisions)

Results.
- 2nd paragraph, line 4
It would be better to indicate just the result. I suggest the following changes: “HPV type distribution of previously unclassified HPV infections is shown in Table 2. Overall, 18 samples (4.5%) were determined to be HPV negative using all
primers sets (PGMY09/11, PGMY09/11 nested to GP5+/6+, and FAP59/64)

The part of this phrase that explains the observation should be moved to the Discussion section (2nd paragraph, line 1). (Minor essential revisions)

Discussion
- 2nd paragraph, line 1. The authors might consider discussing here the result.
I suggest the following changes:
“Among the 404 samples analyzed employing three PCR systems to detect a wide spectrum of #-, #-, and #-HPV DNA, 4.5% of samples were determined to be HPV negative. The result suggests that a small proportion of initially unclassified HPV detection presumably represents spurious amplification.” (Minor Essential Revisions)

- 2nd paragraph, line 2.
The authors might consider inserting quotes number 7 and number 8 related to their previous publication (J Clin Virol 2013 and Virology 2013) to clarify these comments. I suggest the following changes:
(Full stop) “In 30.0% of the specimens, unreadable sequences were generated after direct sequencing of FAP54/69 PCR products; among these, the presence of more than one HPV type is suspected (insert references 14 and 24). This hypothesis has been confirmed by sequencing a number of clones from each sample whenever overlapping peak patterns were observed, and also using the Luminex technology (insert quotes 7 and 8).” (Minor Essential Revisions)

- 4th paragraph, line 4: In order to emphasize the idea that #-, #-, and #-HPV coinfections in the total number of samples of the HIM study may have been underestimated, I suggest the following changes:
(Full stop) “As with all studies, there are limitations that could influence the types that were grouped together as unclassified HPV types at enrollment in the HIM Study. For this reason, the analysis excluded specimens for which an HPV type had already been assigned by Linear Array, although these specimens may have also harbored #- and #-HPV types. Therefore, an even greater rate of #-, #-, and #-HPV coinfections would be expected in the total number of samples of the HIM study. Co-detection . . . “ (Discretionary revisions)

Minor issues not for publication:
Background:
- 1st paragraph, line 2: change by 8,000 bp
- 3rd paragraph, line 3: change by 4,000

Methods
- Study population, line 6: change by 3,105
- Statistical analysis, line 6. Insert comma after "#-HPV species".
Discussion
-1st paragraph, line 4, insert comma after "skin specimens"
-1st paragraph, line 9, insert comma after "knowledge"
-3rd paragraph, line 3, insert semicolon after "habits" and insert comma after "however"
-3rd paragraph, line 12, Insert period, same line, after "HPV types [26]"

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare I have no competing interest

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interest