Author’s response to reviews

Title: Persistence of Cervical High-Risk Human Papillomavirus in Women Living with HIV in Denmark – the SHADE

Authors:

Kristina Thorsteinsson (kristina.thorsteinsson@gmail.com)
Steen Ladelund (steen@ladelund.dk)
Merete Storgaard (m.storgaard@dadlnet.dk)
Terese Katzenstein (Terese.Katzenstein@regionh.dk)
Isik Johansen (isik@dadlnet.dk)
Gitte Pedersen (gitte.pedersen@dadlnet.dk)
Frederikke Rönsholt (frederikkefr@gmail.com)
Lars Nielsen (Lars.Noerregaard.Nielsen@regionh.dk)
Lisbeth Nilas (nilas@dadlnet.dk)
Maria Franzmann (maria.benedicte.franzmann@regionh.dk)
Niels Obel (Niels.Obel@regionh.dk)
Anne-Mette Lebech (anne-mette.lebech@regionh.dk)
Jesper Bonde (Jesper.Hansen.Bonde@regionh.dk)

Version: 2 Date: 17 Jul 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

INFD-D-19-00849

Persistence of Cervical High-Risk Human Papillomavirus in Women Living with HIV in Denmark – the SHADE

Copenhagen, July 17th, 2019

To the Editor, BMC Infectious Diseases
Enclosed, please find a point-by-point rebuttal and edits as per the editor’s comments to our manuscript “Persistence of Cervical High-Risk Human Papillomavirus in Women Living with HIV in Denmark – the SHADE”, INFD-D-19-00849.

The changes are marked in red in the resubmitted manuscript. We thank the editor for the diligent work on our manuscript and have addressed the comments. Should the editor or the reviewers upon a 3rd review have additional comments please do not hesitate to return the manuscript for further review.

On behalf of the authors, sincerely yours,

Kristina Thorsteinsson, MD, PhD

Department of Infectious Diseases
Hvidovre Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital
Kettegaards Allé 30
2650 Hvidovre
Denmark
Mobile phone: (+45) 29806049

Editor Comments:

Minor comments:

1. In the result section of the abstract: please provide adjusted Odd ratio that support your statement of an association between persistent HR-HPV and CD4<350 as well as the association between >HSIL and prior AIDS.

Reply: The odds ratios have now been provided:

Page 3, line 66-68: " CD4 <350 cells/μL predicted genotype-specific hrHPV persistence (adjusted OR 4.36 (95%CI: 1.18-16.04) and ≥HSIL was predicted by prior AIDS (adjusted OR 8.55 (95%CI 1.21-60.28))".

2. Authors have followed reviewer one suggestion to delete there last conclusive sentence (comment 3) from the abstract. However, the same statement (that poorly reflects the present results) is still present in the conclusion of the manuscript. I suggest that authors reformulate their conclusion in order to reflect their present findings.

Reply: The conclusion has been reformulated.
Page 12, line 340-341: “which supports continued focus on previously and currently immunocompromised WLWH with respect to screening for HPV-related cancers“.

3. References 33 and 44 are duplicates (Heard et al, BJOG 2013); please correct and provide a single reference.

Reply: This has now been corrected.

4. p-values should be presented based on a common format regardless of its significance. Authors should decide to present p-values with two or three decimal places throughout the manuscript.

Reply: This has been corrected to two decimals in manuscript and tables.

5. Notes before table 2a are not in English and should be deleted or translated

Reply: Notes have been deleted.