Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors that influence persistence or recurrence of high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion with positive margins after the loop electrosurgical excision procedure: a retrospective study

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Reviewer: Saketh Guntupalli

Reviewer’s report:

The authors of this work have attempted to retrospectively review risk factors associated with recurrence of HSIL in women who have undergone a LEEP procedure. This is retrospective review at a single institution. This paper is overall well written and answers an important question to general gynecologists and gynecologic oncologists as to what to do with + margins on LEEP specimens. I have the following comments and questions

1) What there a standardized procedure by which LEEP was performed? If there was not, this introduces significant bias in the paper as multiple operators may have performed the procedure differently. Was a colposcopy performed on these patients prior to LEEP and what was used?

2) Where is the power calculation for this sample set? While agree there are co-variates that are significant in the univariate analysis it would be beneficial to know if the authors are powered to detect a difference.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.