Author's response to reviews

Title: Feasibility and Accuracy Evaluation of Three Human Papillomavirus Assays for FTA Card-based Sampling: a Pilot Study in Cervical Cancer Screening

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Version: 4 Date: 31 July 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Thank you very much for your letter and the accompanying comments on our paper (Manuscript ID 8196866791587546). We are submitting a revised manuscript that incorporates the comments. A point-by-point response is attached.

We hope that our paper has been revised satisfactorily and will be published in BMC Cancer.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

You-Lin Qiao    M.D. Ph.D.
Shao-Ming Wang   M.D. Ph.D.

Attachment: Point-by-point response to the comments
**Point-by-point response to the editor’s comments**

Comment 1#: Following the reviewers' suggestions, the authors added 95% CI to their calculations. They should also specify, in Statistical Analysis, how all the various types of CI's were calculated.

*Re: Thanks for the editor’s comment. We have added the calculation method in the statistical analysis section with the following revision: ”The 95% confidence interval (95% CI) was calculated using the Wald test by OpenEpi Version 3 (www.OpenEpi.com), an open source epidemiologic statistics for public health.”*

Comment 2#: The description of the power calculation does not seem to be complete. The authors should specify what it is that they intended to test with the sample of 395 women, and report which endpoint they used for the sensitivity and specificity under the assumptions (CIN2+? CIN3+?)

*Re: Thanks for the editor’s comment. We rewrote the power calculation and added the endpoint in the method section with the following revision: ”The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of FTA card-based sampling for the detection of CIN2+. According to previous studies, we assumed that the sensitivity of detecting CIN2+ would range from 0.85 to 0.96, the specificity of detecting CIN2+ would range from 0.60 to 0.80, and the CIN2+ prevalence would be approximately 4%. Given these parameters, we calculated a necessary sample size of 375 with an alpha of 0.05 and 80% power [19]. Assuming a 5% testing failure rate, a maximum of 395 women was required.”*

Comment 3#: Please have the entire manuscript proofread by a native English speaker.

*Re: Thanks for the editor’s comment. We have the entire manuscript proofread by Dr. Danny V. Colombara from the Washington University of the United States.*