Author’s response to reviews

Title: SELF-SAMPLING FOR HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS DNA DETECTION: A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF COMPLIANCE AND FEASIBILITY IN BOLIVIA

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Version: 1 Date: 10 Jun 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

We would like to thank you for your comment on our manuscript entitled “Self-sampling for human papillomavirus DNA detection: a preliminary study of compliance and feasibility in Bolivia” submitted for publication in BMC Women’s Heath.
Please see here under the main changes introduce in order to respond to your comments:

- « The submitted manuscript is of interest as it is applicable in the local setting - however, the Results section needs to be expanded ».

We agree with your comment and add a recent comparison done between self- and physician-collected samples for hr-HPV DNA detection, allowing to confirm that self-collection using cotton swabs is suitable for hr-HPV detection. Consequently, the Abstract, Material and methods, Results and Discussion chapters have been adapted and extended.

- « It is not clear how the cotton swab samples had been collected (as they have provided a higher yield than DNA collected on the tampons, this is a crucial aspect to address). The sentence in the Methods needs to be expanded on to describe how the women were instructed to do this. 'Women were explained how to perform self-sampling with both devices through images and a video.' »

We agree with your comment and add a brief description of the self-sampling methods (4 lines in Material and methods).

Please, find for information, enclosed, one leaflet used for self-sampling instruction and cervical cancer information.

We hope that this change will convince you to consider our manuscript for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Véronique Fontaine.