Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of human papillomavirus infection among women from quilombo communities in Northeastern Brazil

Version: 0 Date: 22 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Peizhong Peter Wang

Reviewer's report:

I am not quite familiar with many technical details presented in the paper. Overall this was a well-planned and executed study. The manuscript is of a heavy information load and the length can be trimmed to accommodate international readers.

1) Page 7: Detection of HPV: This section can be greatly reduced.

2) Page 7: Statistical analysis: It was not clear why multivariate statistical analyses were not performed.

3) Page 7: ethical Aspects: 1-2 sentences should be sufficient

4) Page 10, Results: This section has too many unnecessary details. There is no need to repeat what has been clearly shown in the tables.

5) There seems to be a lot of discussion around the findings concerning the group less than 30 years of age. It makes sense that they have a high prevalence of HPV positivity; this is typically due to increased sexual activity, more partners, etc. There was little discussion on the persistence of the infections, I know it isn't a longitudinal study, but it is important to note the recommendations for higher age minimums for screening programs, due to the persistence of HPV infections. I am a little concerned about the amount of discussion about the findings of this lower age groupings, and I do wonder what their bottom line recommendation/ conclusion is. It has been widely established that HPV positivity will be high in that group, which is fine for the majority, because they are able to clear these infections. Those that persist as women age become the real worry.

6) Tables: The number of tables should be reduced. This can be done by reducing the number of categories under some variables, education (elementary or lower, high school or higher), origin (can be taken off), marital status (married, others), or by combing tables.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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