Reviewer’s report

Title: HPV testing for cervical cancer screening: technical improvement of laboratory logistics and good clinical performance of the cobas 6800 in comparison to the 4800 system.

Version: 1  Date: 11 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Collette Bromhead

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have answered my previous queries satisfactorily and included changes to their manuscript that I am satisfied improve it to the level required for publication. There is one paragraph in the methods section on page 7 in lines 123-130 that was very hard to understand because of the poor English, I have written a new version of this paragraph as a suggestion for the authors to consider:

"Both cobas HPV real-time PCR assays detect the same 14 types of HPV, use the same primers and probes, and provide partial genotyping for HPV16 and HPV18. The two assays do however differ in their Thermal Cycling (CT) profile, (the cobas6800/8800 runs a universal thermal cycling profile to allow for mixed batching of different PCR tests), as well as in the elution sample volume amplified (50μl on 6800/8800 vs 150μl on 4800 out of a 400μl aliquot of extracted nucleic acids).

Both HPV assays were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Each plate contained 92 clinical samples, 2 controls (selected from 10 internal and 5 external quality controls) and 2 clinical samples previously found to be invalid by the cobas 4800 HPV test."

I hope that is helpful.

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.

Yes

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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I have previously received educational grants from Roche Diagnostics NZ.

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