Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and predictors of Pap smear cervical epithelial cell abnormality among women attending gynecological examination in cervical cancer screening unit at Debre Markos referral hospital, East Gojam, Northwest Ethiopia

Version: 3 Date: 14 March 2015

Reviewer: Pam Michelow

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
While several of the recommended revisions were undertaken, several were not. Thus this article cannot be accepted or rejected until the major issues have been addressed. If for some reason, the issues cannot be addressed, then a list of these with the reasons thereof, need to be provided by the authors.

1. The term "ASCH" has been included in the introduction but has been omitted from the abstract, results and discussion. As "ASCH" is an integral part of the Bethesda System for reporting cervical cytology, this term needs to be included in the whole article. If the authors have combined the categories "ASCH and HSIL", this needs to be clearly stated in the text (and abstract) and the reasons for this justified.

2. The sentence in "On a global level, 75% of women manifesting abnormal cervical cytology......likely to develop cervical cancer". This figure seems too high. Please check this is correct AND provide a reference for this.

3. All women attending at Debremarkos referral hospital during the study period for any gynecological problem were eligible for the study”. By its name, the hospital is a referral hospital. How are woman referred to Debremarkos referral hospital? Do they have a pap smear at the primary health facility that they are referred from? This may cause bias in the results.

4. Were any women on antiretroviral therapy? If so, it would be relevant to determine ECA in women receiving and not receiving antiretroviral therapy. If this data was not collected, it should be stated and the reason this data was not collected provided.

Minor essential revisions:
There are still some spelling and grammatical errors in the text that require correction.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.