

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Incidence of cervical disease associated to hpv in human immunodeficiency infected women under highly active antiretroviral therapy

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 3 March 2009

**Reviewer:** Colomba Giorgi

### **Reviewer's report:**

In this paper the authors report a comparison of the incidence of HPV-related diseases in HIV infected women treated or not with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).

The question addressed is important specially because the data come from an african country, Cameroun, for which few data are available.

The paper is not well written, and the results are not sufficiently and appropriaterly discussed. In particular:

- The inclusion criteria of the women in the two groups are not sufficiently clear. The number of women in each group is appropriated for a statistical analysis?
- Table 2 has to be reorganized because it not clear that the statically significance has been calculated between the total number of abnormalities in women under HAART (17) and that of the other group(22);
- Results shown in Tab 3a and 3b. In the test is not indicate that 3a show the frequency and 3b the incidence of cervical abnormalities. What mean the authors , pg4 first line, when they say "cervical abnormalities are high in absence of therapy or at the beginning" ? That is mean that the women in the group without HAART are going to receive antiretroviral therapy?

The decrease of HSIL and the increasing of LSIL can be associated at the cytological state of the women at the entry to HAART therapy?

-The results showed in tab5 are regarding the HIV infected women no under HAART and examine the risk factors associated to having LSIL or HSIL. In this study is lacking the control group constituted by the uninfected women. Moreover I think that the number of patients in the cohort is not sufficient to have definitive results.

- Also the examination of the STD risk factor needed of the no-HIV infected women.

I think that the authors have to carefully this review and check also the English language.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'