

Reviewer's report

Title: Rapid, Sensitive Type Specific PCR Detection of the E6 and E7 regions of Human Papillomavirus Type 16 and 18 from Paraffin Embedded Sections of Cervical Carcinoma

Version: 1 **Date:** 30 July 2009

Reviewer: Phaik-Leng Cheah

Reviewer's report:

1. The article should follow proper conventional format and be divided into different sections under the following titles: Background, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion.
2. The article is entitled "Rapid, sensitive type-specific PCR detection of the E6 and E7 regions of human papillomavirus types 16 and 18 from paraffin embedded sections of cervical carcinoma".
 - This implies that the method is more rapid than what is commonly available. The authors should show evidence of this.
 - Only E7 was detected in this study, not E6, as claimed in the title and in the 3rd paragraph (pg 3)
3. It is inaccurate for the authors to state that "Most of the existing methods to this end, such as HPV detection by PCR using the MY09/MY11 and GP5+/GP6+ primer systems, allow only the broad detection of a spectrum of HPVs (Line 3, para 3 pg 3). There are several documented studies which carry out type-specific HPV PCR.
4. Pg 5. Paragraph 1. The authors indicate that DNA isolation of unfixed cells was performed by QIAmp DNA purification kit. They have not indicated how DNA is extracted from the fixed cells and cervical carcinoma cases.
5. Pg 5 Paragraphs 2 and 3. Why is the method for PCR amplification of β -actin different from HPV?
6. Line 3, para 3, pg 5. Primers are listed in table 1, and gave an expected PCR product length of 192 bp Should the PCR product length be 196 bp instead of 192 bp?
7. The authors should state how the primers were designed.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.