

# Review of: "Histopathological Patterns of Cervical Cancer Among Females Presenting to Makerere University Pathology Core Reference Laboratory. A 5-Year Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I highly appreciate the intent of the author/s to establish necessary data and information about cervical cancer for their country, that is not yet available as of the time of writing. Information generated through descriptive studies such as this are important for policy-makers to develop meaningful and much needed policies for the betterment of their constituents. It is an alarming finding from this study that most patients they see have their cervical cancer spread locally, regionally, and even distantly. Only a fifth of their cases were localized; it is an important finding, especially for policy-making, to investigate further the reason for this, it is because most patients are not consulting early, or is there non-participation to screening? All of this will be able to guide to create better health policies for the prevention and/or early management of cervical cancer.

Now, on the technical side of academic paper writing, the following are my comments and recommendations:

1. Histopathological pattern may not be the appropriate term to use for this paper. The term histopathological pattern pertains to the characteristic of particular tumors or group of tumors. For example, cribriform pattern, follicular pattern, tubular pattern, etc. The more appropriate terminology to use for this paper can be histologic type, histologic classification, or histologic differentiation, which pertains to squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, etc.
2. The general and specific objectives stated were the same, with the word histopathological added in the specific objectives. Usually, we state specific objectives as research objectives. For example, for this paper, a specific objective can be stated as to determine the proportion of histologic differentiation of cervical cancer among females presenting to Makerere university pathology core reference laboratory.
3. Regarding research design, the term retrospective is reserved for longitudinal studies. Longitudinal studies are where both exposure and outcome of interest are measured at two different time-points. For retrospective studies, the exposure and outcome both had already occurred at the time of the start of the study. However, for this study, it had just described the distribution or proportion of the different histologic type of cervical cancer, without treating it as an outcome or exposure, nor associating it with another variable. Therefore, it is not a cross-sectional study as well, but rather is a descriptive study.
4. For the data analysis section, it would be better to list and describe all of the statistical analysis performed.

5. Regarding the recommendation 1, it would be better to specify which screening will be done and which disease would be screened for. And, there was no finding from this study to support the recommendation 2.