

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.

Dear Editor,

Dear Authors,

I commend the authors for taking on this important topic of the histologic profiling of cervical cancers at a big referral center in Uganda. However, I have a few comments and questions as follows;

Overall

1. The overall structure of the manuscript is not appropriate for a scientific manuscript, it seems to be in a dissertation format. This should be corrected before consideration for publication. Use the traditional sections: Introduction/Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions.
2. Some terms used are not well written such as Human Papillomavirus not papilloma virus and the consistent use of women living with HIV rather than HIV infected in some areas.
3. Some sections at the beginning are redundant such as abbreviations, geographic and time scope, problem statement, justification, etc.
4. The literature review section should become introduction and focus only on the objectives of the current study as more focus was put on screening which is not the purpose of the study.

Methods

1. Please provide more information about data collection methods, data management and statistical methods. For example, although the numbers are small, some histologic subtypes could be compared by HIV status for any associations.
2. It is interesting that only 120 cases of cervical cancer were found in such a big center so please clarify whether some cases were excluded and for what reasons.

Results

The tables could be better arranged by putting most characteristics in one table and adding showing all histologic subtypes in Table 3.

Discussion

1. The results were generally well discussed but more comparisons with other studies about the age and HIV status would add value as mostly the histologic subtypes were discussed.
2. Limitations should be moved to the end of the discussion section.

Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions should be made with their policy and practice implications and so some of the recommendations could be made implications of what can be done given the findings and make it one section.

I recommend major revisions before consideration for publication.