

# 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.

## Overall evaluation

**Acceptance** of this paper after *revision with minor changes* is suggested.

## Comments to the authors

- This is a quantitative retrospective cross-sectional study.
- The main research question is the distribution of the various histopathological patterns of malignant neoplasms of the cervix uteri in women presenting to Makerere University Pathology Core Reference Laboratory in Uganda.
- The main conclusion is that squamous cell carcinoma is the most prevalent pattern of cervical cancer in Uganda present in every 9 out of 10 patients.
  
- The research question is clear and interesting.
- This paper focuses solely on cervical cancer and not on other cervical histopathological entities.
- The manuscript has a very clear structure.
- The applied methodology is solid. The methods are described adequately and the statistical analysis, as well as the statistical software used, is appropriate.
- The presented data support the conclusions and address the research question.
  
- The abstract has appropriate content and structure.
- The introduction provides a concise overview of the extent and significance of cervical cancer in Uganda through recent epidemiological data. It refers to the recently published international literature on the subject (i.e. how the various histopathological types and patterns of cervical cancer lead to variations in treatment and, thus prognosis), by

reviewing several recent studies from countries and regions with similar epidemiological characteristics. Moreover, it spots the lack of relevant histopathological data regarding Ugandan women.

- The paper includes tables, which present and summarise the collected data. All tables are appropriate in quality and format.
- Minor alterations are needed, mostly in grammar, syntax and typos.
- All abbreviations are defined at their first appearance in the text and at the beginning of the manuscript.
- All references are appropriate, matched to the text and correctly presented.

## Comments to the editor

- Overall, I suggest revision with minor changes and acceptance, because this paper sheds further light on an important aspect of a devastating disease which states underprivileged countries, such as the states of sub-Saharan Africa. The information in this paper can aid practitioners and health policy-makers to collect data which can improve both the secondary prevention and prognosis of cervical cancer.
- No possible ethical considerations have been identified for this paper.