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April 10, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 84699-Review.docx).

**Title:** Update on Prevention and Screening of Cervical Cancer

**Authors:** Shaniqua L. McGraw, Jeanne M. Ferrante

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8469-Review

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated per the revision policies and the editor.
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers-see attached Response to Reviewers. All changes are highlighted in the manuscript.
3. References were added and format updated.

Please note the change in first author name from Shaniqua Nisbett to Shaniqua L. McGraw due to name change from marriage. Please also note the change in my email to [jeanne.ferrante@rutgers.edu](mailto:jeanne.ferrante@rutgers.edu). Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Sincerely,



Jeanne M. Ferrante, MD, MPH

## Response to Reviewers

### Reviewer 1:

1. The statement “cervical cancer prevention programs in adolescents should focus on universal HPV vaccination” is an opinion, not fact.

As suggested, we have changed that statement in the core tip to “options for prevention include HPV vaccination as well as decreasing other risk factors associated with HPV infection.”

2. There is no discussion of the difference between Gardasil and Cervarix.

We have added a discussion of the difference between these 2 vaccines under the heading Cervical Cancer Prevention with HPV Vaccination.

3. The evidence to support HPV 16/18 genotyping is sparse.

We have included this statement in the last paragraph of Current Guidelines for Cervical Cancer Screening

4. USPSTF is written incorrectly.

This has been corrected.

5. You have not referenced the most active researchers.

We have added more recent references regarding HPV vaccines and genotyping.

### Reviewer 2:

1. Some of the risk factors for cervical cancer remain controversial. Add references to “Other risk factors include immunosuppression (with HIV or medications), use of oral contraceptives longer than 5 years, and having 3 or more full term pregnancies.” Also add references to risk factors in Table 1 or delete it.

We have added references to the risk factors in the text as well as Table 1.

### Reviewer 3:

All suggested minor changes to the text (in abstract, HPV infection and cervical cancer) have been done and are highlighted.

### Reviewer 4:

1. HPV infection and cervical cancer: Clarify the CIN classifications and keep uniformity in saying chance of regression or progression.

We have clarified the CIN classifications and changed the wording as suggested.

2. Risk factors for cervical cancer: Clarify that these are factors associated with the acquisition of HPV infection. You can also discuss the risk factors associated with the progression of persistent HPV infection to cervical cancer. Delete repetitive sentences and last 2 sentences of the section.

Clarifications and repetitive/unrelated sentences have been deleted as suggested.

3. Cervical cancer prevention: Sequence contents in a better way to get more clarity regarding the 2 main points- Cervical cancer prevention by vaccination and Issues related with implementation (or acceptance) of HPV vaccine.

This has been revised as suggested with a separated heading for Barriers to implementation of HPV vaccine.

4. Cervical cancer screening: 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph- add "in the US."

We have added "in the US and other industrialized nations" to this sentence.

5. Table 1: Family history should also be discussed in the text. Possibly the close relatives may similarly be exposed to the risk factors for getting the infection and progression of the disease.

We have deleted family history from Table 1 as it is controversial.