A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies evaluating the performance of point-of-care tests for human papillomavirus screening
Helen Kelly, Philippe Mayaud, Michel Segondy, Nitika Pant Pai, Rosanna Peeling

To cite this version:
Helen Kelly, Philippe Mayaud, Michel Segondy, Nitika Pant Pai, Rosanna Peeling. A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies evaluating the performance of point-of-care tests for human papillomavirus screening. Sexually Transmitted Infections, BMJ Publishing Group, 2017, 93 (S4), pp.S36-S45. 10.1136/sextrans-2016-053070 . hal-01738296

HAL Id: hal-01738296
https://hal.umontpellier.fr/hal-01738296
Submitted on 3 Feb 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.
A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies evaluating the performance of point-of-care tests for human papillomavirus screening

Helen Kelly,¹ Philippe Mayaud,¹ Michel Segondy,² Nitika Pant Pai,³ Rosanna W Peeling¹

SUMMARY

High-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) is a necessary cause of high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (grade 2 or higher, CIN2+). Simplified and rapid HPV DNA assays designed for use in resource-limited settings have recently become available.

Methods We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis by searching Medline, Embase, Global Health and CINAHL databases for studies from 1 January 2004 to 25 February 2017 that reported the performance of careHPV or OncoE6 for the detection of histological CIN2+ in cervical cancer screening. We used bivariate models to estimate pooled sensitivity and specificity for CIN2+ and CIN3+.

Results A total of 29657 women were included from seven studies evaluating the performance of careHPV for the detection of CIN2+ and four studies among 27845 women for the detection of CIN3+. The pooled prevalence for CIN2+ and CIN3+ was 2.3% and 1.1%, respectively. careHPV had sensitivity and specificity of 88.1% (95% CI 81.4 to 92.7) and 83.7% (95% CI 74.9 to 91.4) for CIN2+ and 90.3% (95% CI 83.4 to 94.5) and 85.3% (95% CI 73.1 to 92.5), respectively, for CIN3+. careHPV had sensitivity and specificity of 74.9% (95% CI 67.8 to 80.8) and 99.1% (95% CI 96.4 to 100) for CIN2+ and 53.5% and 98.9% for CIN3+ for one study.

Conclusion CareHPV has good sensitivity and specificity for the detection of CIN2+ and CIN3+, but sensitivity was lower using self-collected vaginal samples. The specificity is lower in high HPV prevalence populations such as women living with HIV. OncoE6 assay warrants further evaluation.

INTRODUCTION

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a necessary cause of invasive cervical cancer (ICC), which affects nearly 500 000 women around the world every year with a mortality of more than 270 000, 80% of whom live in low and middle income (LMIC) countries. Cytology-based programmes have been the main approach for screening, but these are not often available in most of the low/ middle-income countries.
trained staff in roughly 2.5 hours and has a longer shelf-life compared with the HC2 assay. New molecular tests with similar characteristics, although with different targets, are becoming also available on the market. The OncoE6 test (Arbor Vita) is a lateral flow immunoassay that detects the E6 oncoprotein from HPV16, HPV18 and HPV45, which cause approximately 75% of ICC.11

The purpose of this review was to identify tests for the detection of HR-HPV that met the ASSURED criteria, conduct a systematic review of the literature and summarise their performance characteristics for the detection of CIN2+.

METHODS

Index tests

Only rapid/POC tests for the detection of HR-HPV that met the ASSURED criteria were included (Affordable, Sensitive, Specific, User-friendly, Rapid and robust, Equipment-free and Deliverable to end-users).12 HR-HPV types were defined using the current International Agency for Research on Cancer classification: ‘carcinogenic to humans’ (HPV16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59) and ‘probable carcinogenic’ (HPV68).

Reference or gold standard test

Studies were included if HPV-DNA tests were assessed against a histological endpoint of CIN grade 2 or higher (CIN2+). Studies with cytological endpoint assessment only were excluded because of the lower sensitivity for cytology measures in detection of high-grade disease.8

Search

We searched Medline, Embase, Global Health and CINAHL databases for publications in the English language from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2013 using search terms for human papillomavirus (HPV), cervical intraepithelial lesions (CIN), squamous intraepithelial lesions (SIL), HPV screening; Diagnostics; Point of Care; Rapid; Near patient; method; test; evaluation; performance and comparison. Reference lists of review articles and all articles identified in the systematic search were checked. An updated search was performed on 25 February 2017. All abstracts were screened by one author (HK).

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Eligibility criteria were defined using the PICOS (Population, Interventions, Comparisons, Outcomes, Study Design) criteria as shown in box 1. Studies evaluating the accuracy of any HPV-POC tests commercially available at the time of the review were considered for inclusion.

Studies were excluded if the index test was not a rapid test for HPV (ie, did not meet the ASSURED criteria), if diagnostic accuracies were not compared with a histological endpoint and if the studies did not report data to allow for calculation of diagnostic accuracy.

Reference or gold standard test

Studies were included if HPV-DNA tests were assessed against a histological endpoint of CIN grade 2 or higher (CIN2+). Studies with cytological endpoint assessment only were excluded because of the lower sensitivity for cytology measures in detection of high-grade disease.8

Figure 1  Flowchart for study selection.
Review

Data extraction
From the consensus list, sensitivity and specificity measures were extracted by one author (HK) using a standardised form. For all studies, the following variables were recorded: year of study, study location, study population, outcomes of interest (histological confirmed lesion CIN2+/CIN3+), HR-HPV prevalence and sensitivity and specificity for the detection of CIN2+ and CIN3+, where given.

Methodological assessment
Included studies were assessed according to the QUADAS-2 checklist for reporting diagnostic accuracy15 (online supplementary table 1).

Statistical analysis
The numbers of true positives, false positives, true negatives and false negatives were extracted where available. Where sensitivity and specificity measures only were given, data were extracted to calculate the numbers of true positives, false negatives, true negatives and false positives. Forest plots were generated to display sensitivity and specificity estimates.

Meta-analysis
The bivariate model15 was used to estimate pooled sensitivity and specificity estimates using metandi and midas in STATA, whereby pairs of sensitivity and specificity are jointly analysed, incorporating any correlation that might exist between these two measures using a random-effects approach. Heterogeneity across studies was assessed using the I² statistic.16

Separate meta-analyses were performed for the detection of CIN2+ and CIN3+ outcomes, and were also performed separately for studies that used different specimen types (cervical vs vaginal swabs).

To account for correlation between sensitivity and specificity, we used the hierarchical summary receiver operating characteristic (HSROC),17 which allows for threshold effects and between-study and within-study variability, by allowing both test accuracy to vary across studies. The heterogeneity in the forest plots were assessed by visually examining the confidence intervals (CIs) of individual studies, and in summary HSROC plots by examining the width of the prediction region, with a wider prediction region suggesting more heterogeneity.

Sensitivity analysis
Sensitivity analyses could not be performed due to lack of additional covariate data. Formal assessment of publication bias was not performed due to low number of studies.

Data were analysed using Stata V.14 (Stata Statistical Software).

This review was reported according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)18 and the Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) guidelines.19

RESULTS
Search result
The first review up to 31 December 2013 identified 1364 publications through Medline, Embase, Global Health and CINAHL library searches, which reported performance measures for HPV DNA point-of-care tests for the detection of CIN2+ (figure 1), of which 1359 were excluded after abstract review because the assays did not meet the ASSURED criteria, leaving five publications for full-text review. Finally, two publications20 21 satisfied the inclusion criteria. An updated search performed until 25 February 2017 identified an additional four publications22–25 that satisfied the inclusion criteria. Two further publications26 27 were subsequently identified in June 2017. The review identified only two tests that appeared to satisfy the ASSURED criteria (careHPV (Qiagen) targeting the HR-HPV types HPV16/18/31/33/35/39/45/51/52/56/39/66/68 and OncoE6 (Arbor Vita) targeting the HR-HPV types HPV16/18/45), which had publication material that could be assessed. The characteristics of the included publications are summarised in Table 1. One publication24 provided performance estimates for two countries and was considered as two separate populations in the analysis; one publication23 provided performance estimates for four countries and was considered as four separate populations in the analysis, and one publication27 provided performance estimates separately for women living with HIV (WLHIV) and HIV-negative women and was considered as two populations. This resulted in 12 separate populations included in the final analysis, among 29 657 women. Two studies measured the performance of careHPV for CIN2+ detection among 1215 WLHIV in Burkina Faso and South Africa,26 and Uganda.27

Among seven studies (twelve populations) evaluating the careHPV test (table 1), all evaluated the performance of careHPV test for the detection of CIN2+ and four studies (eight populations) evaluated its performance for the detection of CIN3+.20 22–24 using clinician-collected cervical swabs. Four studies (eight populations) evaluated the performance of careHPV for the detection of CIN2+20 22 23 27 and three studies (six populations) for CIN3+.20 22 24 using self-collected vaginal swabs. All studies evaluating the performance of careHPV used a cut-off of 1 pg/mL for defining test positivity.

Two studies evaluated the performance of OncoE6 test for the detection of CIN2+22 23 and one study for CIN3+21 using clinician-collected cervical swabs.

The CareHPV test for the detection of CIN2+ and CIN3+
The sensitivity and specificity estimates for CIN2+ for individual populations are summarised in figure 2 (clinician-collected cervical swabs) and figure 3 (self-collected vaginal swabs). Sensitivity and specificity for CIN3+ for individual populations are summarised in figure 4 (clinician-collected cervical swab) and figure 5 (self-collected vaginal swab). The pooled summary estimates are summarised in table 2.

The careHPV test had a sensitivity of 88.1% (95% CI 81.4 to 92.7) and specificity of 83.7% (95% CI 74.9 to 89.8) for CIN2+ detection using clinician-collected cervical swabs (table 2), and a sensitivity of 73.6% (95% CI 64.9 to 80.8) and specificity of 88.0% (95% CI 79.1 to 93.5) using self-collected vaginal swabs.

The corresponding pooled estimates for sensitivity and specificity for CIN3+ were 90.3% (95% CI 83.4 to 94.5) and 85.3% (95% CI 73.1 to 92.5), respectively, using cervical swabs and 75.2% (95% CI 66.8 to 82.0) and 90.6% (95% CI 83.4 to 94.9) using vaginal swabs. Heterogeneity across studies was high for both CIN2+ and CIN3+ outcomes (table 2).

When restricting the analysis to six studies (nine populations) among the general population of women using clinician-collected cervical swabs, the sensitivity for CIN2+ was similar to the overall pooled result (84.9%, 95% CI 76.8 to 90.5; table 2), but specificity was higher (88.6%, 95% CI 76.8 to 90.5). The pooled estimates for the 1215 WLHIV in Burkina Faso, South Africa and Uganda were 93.7% (95% CI 86.8 to 97.7) and 58.8% (95% CI 55.9 to 61.7) for sensitivity and specificity, respectively (data not shown).24 27

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Study population no</th>
<th>Specimen type</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
<th>Study population</th>
<th>Median age (IQ range) or age range</th>
<th>Prevalence HR-HPV*</th>
<th>CIN2+</th>
<th>CIN3+</th>
<th>Biopsy indication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Segondy et al</td>
<td>Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clinician/nurse-collected cervical swab</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>WLHIV attending HIV treatment centres previously screened for CIN2+</td>
<td>36 (31–41)</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>Screen positive for any of: VIA/VILI, cervical cytology (ASCUS+), colposcopy abnormal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Johannesburg, South Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Clinician/nurse-collected cervical swab</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>34 (30–40)</td>
<td>43.8% 10.2% 2.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanou et al</td>
<td>China—Xinjiang</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Clinician/nurse-collected cervical swab</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>Women screening positive for either VIA/VILI or cervical cytology (ASCUS+) at the outpatient department of the Affiliated Tumor Hospital of Xinjiang Medical University</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>Colposcopy was performed to determine positive results from VIA/VILI or cervical cytology (ASCUS+), and direct biopsy or four-quadrant biopsies were taken. Histology read by two histopathologists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bansil et al</td>
<td>Uganda—Kampala and Walasa District</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>WLHIV invited for cervical cancer screening</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>Women who screened negative advised to return for screening in 3 years; women who screened positive on any of care HPV, VIA or cytology were referred to colposcopy and directed biopsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeronimo et al</td>
<td>India—Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>4658</td>
<td>Women invited for cervical cancer screening by HCW through a door-to-door survey</td>
<td>38 (30–46)</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>Screen positive for any of: VIA, cervical cytology, care HPV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>India—Hyderabad</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>4302</td>
<td>Women invited for cervical cancer screening</td>
<td>36 (30–42)</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>4645</td>
<td>Women invited for cervical cancer screening</td>
<td>38 (32–44)</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhao et al</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>3146</td>
<td>Women invited for cervical cancer screening</td>
<td>37 (29–45)</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhao et al</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>7421</td>
<td>Previously unscreened women from three communes (Yangcheng, Xinmi and Tonggu) invited for screening</td>
<td>25–60 years</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>Screen positive for any of: VIA, OncoE6, HCII and care HPV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gage et al</td>
<td>Irun, Nigeria</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cervical swab (Digene cervical brush)</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>Women referred to colposcopy based on abnormal VIA/LBC or HPV PCR and a random selection of screen negative controls</td>
<td>18-45 years</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Screen positive for any of: VIA, LBC HPV PCR and random selection of screen negative controls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qiao et al</td>
<td>Shaoji, China</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>2530</td>
<td>Women; non-pregnant, no history of CIN, pelvic radiation or hysterectomy</td>
<td>43 (27–48)</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>Screen positive for any of: LBC, HCI, care HPV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omioto studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chibwesha et al</td>
<td>Lusaka, Zambia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>WLHIV aged ≥18 years invited for screening</td>
<td>≥18 years</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>Screen positive for any of: VIA, digital cervicography, Xpert HPV and OncoE6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhao et al</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Clinician-collected cervix + self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>7421</td>
<td>Previously unscreened women from three communes (Yangcheng, Xinmi and Tonggu) invited for screening</td>
<td>25–60 years</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>Screen positive for any of: VIA, OncoE6, HCII and care HPV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASCUS, atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance; CIN, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia; HCI, Hybrid Capture II; HCW, healthcare workers; HPV, human papillomavirus; HR, HPV, high-risk HPV; LBC, liquid-based cytology; HR, not reported; WA, visual inspection using acetic acid; VIA, visual inspection using Lugol's iodide; WLHIV, women living with HIV.

1 HR-HPV measured using GeneXpert test (5.6% according to OncoE6).

*HR-HPV prevalence presented was determined using clinician-collected cervical swab.
OncoE6 for the detection of CIN2+ and CIN3+

There were two studies that evaluated the performance of OncoE6 for the detection of CIN2+ among 7621 women and CIN3+ among 7421 women, and among 200 WLHIV. Zhao et al. reported a sensitivity and specificity of 42.4% and 99.1%, respectively, for the detection of CIN2+, and 53.5% and 98.9%, respectively, for the detection of CIN3+ among HIV-negative women in China. In Zambia, Chibwesha et al. reported a sensitivity and specificity of 31.3% (95% CI 16 to 50) and 99.4% (95% CI 97 to 100), respectively, for CIN2+ detection among WLHIV.

Methodological assessment

According to the QUADAS criteria (online supplementary table 1), the quality of the papers included was acceptable, but with some omissions in reporting on the training of test operators, mechanism for blinding of index and reference test and how indeterminate results were handled.

DISCUSSION

This review found that the careHPV test had good sensitivity and specificity for the detection of CIN2+ (88.1% and 83.7%, respectively) and CIN3+ (90.3% and 85.3%, respectively) using clinician-collected swabs. While specificity remained high when using self-collected vaginal swabs, the sensitivity for CIN2+ and CIN3+ was lower than when using clinician-collected swabs (73.6% and 75.2%, respectively).

The pooled performance estimates in this review suggest that while the careHPV test has similar specificity to that reported for the Hybrid Capture II (HCII) assay, the sensitivity is lower than what has been previously reported in other meta-analyses of HCII performance. This is consistent with a recent meta-analysis that directly compared the performance of the two assays and reported a relative sensitivity for the careHPV test compared with the HCII assay of 0.86 (95% CI 0.79 to 0.94) and relative specificity of 1.01 (95% CI 0.99 to 1.03) for CIN2+.

Compared with the other screening modalities, visual inspection and cervical cytology, the careHPV test had higher sensitivity but similar specificity for the detection of CIN2+. In a meta-analysis of 21 studies from sub-Saharan Africa and India among over 58,000 women, VIA showed moderate sensitivity for the detection of CIN2+ (pooled estimate: 79.2%–82.4%) and specificity (84.7%–87.4%). VILI performed even better with higher sensitivity (CIN2+: 91.2%–95.1%; CIN3+: 93.8%) and similar specificity (CIN2+: 84.5%–87.2%; CIN3+: 83.8%). However, sensitivity has been reported to be as low as 50% in other studies. The wide variation in its performance is attributed to the subjective nature of test interpretation. High

---

**Figure 2** Meta-analysis of the careHPV test performance (sensitivity and specificity) for CIN2+ detection using clinician-collected cervical swabs among 12 populations. *studies among women living with HIV
rates of positivity have resulted in over-referral to colposcopy services and overtreatment. Despite this, a single round of VIA screening has been associated with a 25%-35% reduction in cervical cancer incidence, cervical cancer mortality and the frequency of CIN2+ lesions, in studies in Thailand, Ghana and Zambia.31–33

The careHPV test also performed better than cervical cytology. In a meta-analysis of studies evaluating performance of screening in Africa and India,8 cytology, whether using positive test result cut-offs of atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance and greater (≥ASCUS), low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (≥LSIL) or high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (≥HSIL), had poor sensitivity for the detection of CIN2+ (range: 42.6 for ≥HSIL to 57.0% for ≥ASCUS) and CIN3+ (range: 51.6%–63.0%) but high specificity (range: 92.8%–99.3% and 92.3%–99.0% for CIN2+ and CIN3+, respectively).

HPV-DNA testing among women living with HIV

The careHPV test was shown to have good sensitivity but lower specificity for the detection of CIN2+ among WLHIV in Burkina Faso, South Africa and Uganda in this review compared with the general population,24–27 similar to what was reported for HCII among WLHIV in South Africa.34 HPV testing may detect many transient infections, which do not progress to CIN2+, meaning that its specificity for high-grade CIN can be low. A recent review of HPV-DNA-based tests for the detection of cervical lesions reported that for a 10% increase in HR-HPV prevalence, HR-HPV-DNA-based test specificity for CIN2+ detection decreased by 8.4% (95% CI 8.0% to 8.8%),35 which has important implications for HIV-positive populations who have a high prevalence of HR HPV. Segondy et al also reported an increase in specificity with increasing CD4+ cell count and among women on antiretroviral therapy (ART), corresponding with a decrease in HR-HPV prevalence with increasing CD4+ cell count and prolonged duration of ART use. Studies have shown that women are at decreased risk of CIN2+ if ART is initiated at higher CD4+ counts (>500 cells/mm³),36 and prolonged ART duration and high CD4+ cell count are associated with a reduction in HR-HPV prevalence and persistence.37–38

The biggest contribution of POC-HPV testing is the possibility of decentralising screening, increasing the number of women who enter the screening and management process more promptly and therefore may ultimately contribute to the decrease of incidence of high-grade cervical lesions. The slightly lower sensitivity and specificity for vaginal self-sampling compared with clinician-collected cervical samples in this review were similar to that in a large meta-analysis that
reported a relative sensitivity of 0.88 (95% CI 0.85 to 0.91) and specificity of 0.96 (95% CI 0.95 to 0.97) for CIN2+ using vaginal self-sampling compared with clinician-collected cervical samples. However, the possibility of self-sampling may allow for an increase in uptake of testing especially in settings where self-sampling might be preferred for cultural or logistical reasons. A number of studies have evaluated the acceptability and feasibility of the self-sampling using the careHPV test, and for some the concordance of results. A study of 431 women in rural Roi-et Province in Thailand reported that 91% found the self-swabbing acceptable, 71% preferred the self-swab to a clinician swab and 95% returned for same-day follow-up. In a study among 518 women in El Salvador, 38.8% preferred self-collection and 31.9% preferred provider collection. In a study among 194 women in Ghana (50% of whom are WLHIV), 76.3% women found self-collection very easy/easy to obtain, 57.7% preferred self-collection to clinician collection and 61.9% felt self-collection would increase their likelihood to access cervical cancer screening; in that study, the concordance of the careHPV test results between self-collected and clinician-collected samples was 94.2%. Hence, despite the lower sensitivity of the careHPV test using vaginal self-swabs in this review, self-collection coupled with POC testing has the potential to increase coverage of screening and impact on disease rates. Prospective studies are warranted to compare the effectiveness of vaginal self-sampling over clinician-based cervical sampling in terms of numbers of CIN identified and managed.

The low sensitivity but high specificity of the OncoE6 test, which targets HPV16, HPV18 and HPV45, for CIN2+ detection suggests it may be useful as a ‘screen-and-treat’ or triage test; however, further studies are warranted, especially in settings where HPV vaccination has been introduced.

**Limitations**

A major drawback of the evaluation of HPV POC tests against a relatively rare disease outcome such as CIN2+ is that it is not a direct comparison of the detection of the infection that may cause disease several years later. Most HR-HPV infections are transient and will not all cause severe histological changes. Therefore, a measure of persistent infection at two time points, or a marker of transformative or integrative infection, might increase specificity. Furthermore, it is believed that some HR-HPV types, such as HPV16, HPV18 and HPV45, might have greater oncogenic potential.

There was significant heterogeneity across studies (Table 2), which may be attributed to the variation in HR-HPV
prevalence across studies. WLHIV in Burkina Faso, South Africa and Uganda had the highest prevalence (46.5%, 43.8% and 44.9%, respectively), but excluding these studies did not lead to a reduction in heterogeneity. HR HPV was also high among HIV-negative women in Uganda (20.2%), Nigeria (25.1%) and China (18.0%). Another study in Rwanda reported that the careHPV test positivity was higher among 1289 WLHIV compared with 1675 HIV-negative women (31.8% vs 8.2%, respectively), but the study did not measure its performance for CIN2+ detection.

There was potential bias attributed to biopsy indication in the included studies. Most studies maximised the chances of obtaining histological results by basing biopsy decision on positivity of any of the screening tests, which included visual inspection, cervical cytology and HPV-DNA tests. Women negative by all tests were considered to be at extremely low risk of CIN2 since in particular HPV DNA and cytology have very high negative predictive values for CIN2 diagnosis. There is potentially greater risk of ascertainment bias in studies with lower prevalence of HR HPV (table 2), especially among the studies that used self-collected vaginal specimens which had lower sensitivity for CIN2+. Relative accuracy estimates of the careHPV test compared with other HPV assays would allow for a comparability measure of the different HPV assays, taking into account the heterogeneity across studies and the effects of sampling devices, quality and histological endpoint determination. There were too few studies evaluating the performance of the OncoE6 test to conduct a formal pooling analysis.

New tests for HPV detection, such as the Xpert HPV, look promising in terms of performance for the detection of CIN2+ compared with HC2 or HPV genotyping, but were not considered to satisfy the ASSURED criteria for this review. Over time and with lower costs, such tests may qualify, especially if investment is made in the platform, as is the case for countries like South Africa, which has introduced Xpert for Mycobacterium tuberculosis diagnosis nationwide.

**CONCLUSION**

The careHPV test performs as well as other screening modalities, such as visual inspection and cervical cytology, and has the added advantage of allowing for self-sampling that can increase coverage and uptake of screening. HPV-DNA testing is, however, less specific among WLHIV and could result in more false-positive results and over-referral for colposcopy in this population. The possibility for future HPV-POC tests to distinguish between certain HPV types, to determine persistence or transformation/integration stages, might improve on their performance.
### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIN3+</th>
<th>N. study populations (N women)</th>
<th>Sensitivity (% CI)</th>
<th>Specificity (% CI)</th>
<th>I²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All women</td>
<td>12 (n=29657)</td>
<td>88.1 (84.1 to 92.7)</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>5 (n=26120)</td>
<td>73.6 (64.9 to 80.8)</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General population</td>
<td>9 (n=26902)</td>
<td>75.2 (66.8 to 82.0)</td>
<td>88.6 (76.8 to 90.5)</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>4 (n=27848)</td>
<td>72.2 (62.7 to 80.1)</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any women</td>
<td>17 (n=56069)</td>
<td>80.9 (76.8 to 84.9)</td>
<td>75.2%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-collected vaginal swab</td>
<td>7 (n=28120)</td>
<td>72.2 (62.7 to 80.1)</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key messages

- Simplified and rapid HPV-DNA assays designed for use in resource-limited settings have recently become available, including the careHPV test and OncoE6.
- The careHPV test had good sensitivity and specificity for the detection of CIN2+ and CIN3+, but sensitivity was lower using self-collected vaginal samples.
- The specificity for CIN2+ was lower in high HPV prevalence populations such as women living with HIV.
- The possibility for future HPV-POC tests to distinguish between certain HPV types, to determine persistence or transformation/integration stages, might improve on their performance.

# REFERENCES

30 Denny L, de Sanjose S, Mutebi M, et al. Interventions to close the divide for women with breast and cervical cancer between low-income and middle-income countries and high-income countries. Lancet 2017;389.
A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies evaluating the performance of point-of-care tests for human papillomavirus screening

Helen Kelly, Philippe Mayaud, Michel Segondy, Nitika Pant Pai and Rosanna W Peeling

*Sex Transm Infect* 2017 93: S36-S45
doi: 10.1136/sextrans-2016-053070

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://sti.bmj.com/content/93/S4/S36

These include:

**References**
This article cites 41 articles, 7 of which you can access for free at:
http://sti.bmj.com/content/93/S4/S36#BIBL

**Open Access**
This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt and build upon this work, for commercial use, provided the original work is properly cited. See:
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

**Email alerting service**
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Topic Collections**
Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections

Open access (263)

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/