



## SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

### PART 1:

|                          |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Journal Name:            | <a href="#">Journal of Advances in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences</a>           |
| Manuscript Number:       | 2014_JAMPS_15296                                                                     |
| Title of the Manuscript: | Interobserver agreement for Pap smear and visual inspection tests in southern Brazil |
| Type of the Article      | Original Research Article                                                            |

### PART 2:

| FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Authors' response to final evaluator's comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The Abstract is much improved. However, the Aim still needs to address why the study was done: to assess the agreement between observers on different screening methodologies why? The first sentence implies that the reason for assessment is the high rate of false negatives with Pap. Yet VITs will not replace Pap based on specificity / sensitivity, they would replace Pap for other reasons such as availability of histopathology, ability to see and treat, and human resource availability. While the abstract is much improved, there are gaps remaining: for example, the overall rationale for the study has not been explained: was the comparison of screening methods done to validate the introduction of VIT in the context of Brazilian health services? Or was it to assess the sensitivity and specificity of the tests? Was it to look at appropriateness of different cadres performing Pap vs. VIT? The Aim is the place that this should be clarified.</p> <p>The Methods section of the still does not clarify an important point of which two observers were observing Pap vs. VIT. Pap results are read by histopathologists, so presumably the two observers were histopathologists, while the two observers of the VIT were different people. Or were Pap used as a gold standard and compared to the results of the VIT? And what was being compared by the observers, since VIA generally results in pos/neg/suspect cancer while Pap may have different values. All of this should be clarified in the Methods.</p> <p>After re-reading, I think I understand that the agreement of observers of Pap and the agreement of observers of VIT have nothing to do with each other, i.e. there is no comparison between agreements of providers for these tests. However, there is comparison of the actual results of these tests. There is also mention of use of a gold standard, but this is not clarified in the Methods section, only appears in the Results section. The Methods also needs to clarify how results of VIT which are pos/neg/suspect cancer are compared to results of Pap which have more classifications.</p> <p>For the Conclusion, the reader would like to know how these results might be applied in the local context – Brazil. If further research is suggested, what specifically would it look at?</p> <p>To get to an acceptable level, the authors need to be able to more clearly state why this study was conducted and how they see it being applied. They also need to concisely describe what this study was measuring and how, in the Methods section of the Abstract and in the main Methods section. It is still not clearly described. Finally, the Discussion, which focuses largely on literature related to sensitivity, specificity and agreement of the various screening methods, should expand slightly to encompass the context for</p> | <p>The overall rationale for the study has now been added in the abstract (lines 14-15) but cannot be elaborated because of the space restriction. More information was provided in the last paragraph of the discussion.</p> <p>Pap test was first interpreted by a laboratory technician specialized in cervical cytopathology as stated on lines 94-95. VIT were first evaluated by the same nurse who collected the Pap specimen as stated on line 109. All VIT were re-examined by a gynaecologist specialized in colposcopy (cf. lines 117-119). Both Pap and VIT used histology as gold standard; this was added on lines 143-144.</p> <p>The definitions of screen-positivity for both VIT and Pap test are given in the paragraph between lines 138 and 144. The information on histology as gold standard has been added at the end of the paragraph.</p> <p>The key to successful use of VIT is adequate training, so this would be the focus of further research. This was added in conclusion on line 304.</p> <p>A paragraph was added at the end of discussion to point to the relevance of the results to the women health policy in Brazil and other developing countries. However, it should be kept in mind that this is not a policy paper but a methodological one, focused on interobserver agreement, as stated in its very title. In addition, some screening policy implications of the wider study cited in the reference [12] have already been published, so only a short reminder of these has been added in this paper.</p> |



**SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1**

health systems in Brazil – how do they see the results influencing practice or policy in Brazil? This study is but one which might be incorporated in practice in developing countries overall. However, if the authors can intelligently discuss the implications for introduction into Brazil, readers can draw parallels to other countries.

These are important results and a good study - I hope that these changes can be made so that the paper is improved to an acceptable level.