



Correspondence

Authors response to Papoutsis and colleagues letter to the editor regarding: Worthy of further consideration: An updated meta-analysis to address the feasibility, acceptability, safety and efficacy of thermal ablation in the treatment of cervical cancer precursor lesions

*To the Editor –*

We thank Dr. Papoutsis and colleagues for their attention to our report (Randall et al., 2019) and we applaud their excellent contribution (Papoutsis et al., 2018). Consistent with previous studies of ablative cervical treatments, (Arbyn et al., 2014; Kyrgiou et al., 2017) (refs) their results suggest that ablative treatments such as cryotherapy and thermal ablation have less effect on obstetric outcomes than do excisional treatments such as cervical conization or LLETZ. We agree that more data are needed on the effect on obstetrical outcomes from various treatments of cervical precancerous lesions. We see two immediate clinical implications from more exact information on these outcomes. First, in high resource settings, one might question whether ablative cervical treatments should be more widely adopted for the treatment of cervical precancer in women hoping to become pregnant. Second, in lower resource settings, a better understanding of the magnitude of these risks might better inform calculations of the risks and values conferred by alternate triage and treatment strategies for women found to be test positive on cervical cancer screening. We therefore wish to again thank Dr. Papoutsis and colleagues for their work, and we encourage further work in this area.

Sincerely,

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