Characterization of HPV-induced vaginal and vulvar carcinoma

Gabriella Lillsunde Larsson

Vaginal and vulvar carcinomas are rare gynaecological malignancies, partly caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV). A persistent HPV-infection may lead to cancer development and viral attributes such as load, integration into the host cell chromosome and methylation in the viral control region may affect its oncogene expression. The present thesis evaluates the HPV-prevalence in two Swedish cohorts of vaginal and vulvar carcinomas, and also investigates its prognostic value. HPV-16 positive tumours are further analysed for variant status, viral load, integration and methylation of E2-binding sites 3 and 4. Finally, different assays for HPV genotyping are evaluated for use in archival tissue.