

**Figure S1.** *Phenotyping of PBMC and CMC by flow cytometry*

Gating strategies of cells were done as follows: singlets; lymphocyte gating; CD3+ live; CD4+/CD8+; different markers out of the CD4+ or CD8+ parent populations.

**Figure S2.** *Protein measurement in CVL*

Expression of proteins in CVL in the two study groups (HESN and NN). The log-transformed data is presented as fluorescence intensity (arbitrary units) per sample and bead identity. The differences in protein levels between the two sample groups were evaluated using the Mann-Whitney *U* test, and p-values <0.05 were regarded significant. A total of 74 proteins, represented by 90 antibodies (Table S1), were sorted from the lowest to the highest p-value (all p-values>0.05).

**Figure S3.** *Cytokine measurement in CVL*

Expression of cytokines in the two study groups (HESN and NN) with data presented as median and interquartile range. The values are given as pg/mL. None of the cytokines differed significantly between the groups (p>0.05). CVL: cervicovaginal lavage.

**Figure S4.** *Ectocervical epithelial thickness and frequency of CD4<sup>+</sup> cells*

Analysis of the second sample time point; HESN (n=29) vs. NN (n=31). The boxplots show the median and interquartile range (whiskers 5-95%) of (a), the total epithelial thickness, (b) the thickness of the E-cadherin positive layer, (c) the thickness of E-cadherin negative layer and (d) percentage of positively stained cell area for CD4<sup>+</sup> (at time of CCR5 staining) out of total epithelial tissue area. The Mann-Whitney *U* test was used to assess statistical significance between the two study groups and p-values <0.05 were considered statistically significant.