Reviewer's report

Title: Does comorbidity explain the ethnic inequalities in cervical cancer survival in New Zealand? A retrospective cohort study

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Reviewer: Mette Nørgaard

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript “Does comorbidity explain the ethnic inequalities in cervical cancer survival in New Zealand? A retrospective cohort study” has greatly benefited from the review process and it can now be recommended for publication.

I have only a few minor comments for the authors to consider.

1. I appreciate the sensitivity analysis including women with missing stage. However, I think the description of this analysis should be placed in the Material and Method section instead of the results section.

2. I am not convinced that there is a major contrast between the estimates adjusted with the selected diseases and the estimates with the validated instrument. If the authors want to stress such contrast, it should be clearer how this finding influences the conclusion of the study.

3. On page 6 Description of Charlson comorbidity index could be reduced and should be placed after description of Elixhauser Instrument since the latter is the one used in the main analysis.

4. Page 16 Conclusion. “It is therefore possible that other factors…”could be reduced to “Other factors, including..., may play a role”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'