Reviewer’s report

Title: For patients with breast cancer, geographic and social disparities are independent determinants of access to specialized surgeons. A eleven-year population-based multilevel analysis.

Version: 2 Date: 23 July 2012

Reviewer: Ruth Cunningham

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions:
1. Regarding the Townsend index, I think you need to put a comment in your methods about the breakdown of your population in relation to the index (as you say in your response, 49.1% was in the most deprived category, as opposed to 20% in the population used to construct the original index).

Discretionary revisions:
2. I understand that you do not feel able to do the additional analysis looking at access to specialist surgeon as a mediator of the relationship between socioeconomic status and survival, although I think it would add greatly to your paper.

I am otherwise happy that you have dealt with my comments.

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