Author’s response to reviews

Title: Level of awareness of mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in a teaching hospital in Ibadan, South-West Nigeria

Authors:

Millicent O Obajimi (millieobaj@yahoo.com)
Ikeoluwapo O Ajayi (ikeajayi2003@yahoo.com)
Abideen O Oluwasola (oluwasol@yahoo.com)
Babatunde O Adedokun (tukankar@yahoo.co.uk)
Adenike T Adeniji-Sofoluwe (omoba30732003@yahoo.com)
Olushola A Mosuro (mosuro2000@yahoo.com)
Titilola S Akingbola (titiakingbola@yahoo.com)
Oku S Bassey (tetebaby_tl@yahoo.co.uk)
Eric Umeh (erada1996@yahoo.co.uk)
Temitope O Soyemi (topking2001ewa@yahoo.com)
Folasade Adegoke (sadegoke2005@yahoo.com)
Idiat Ogungbade (dasolaogungbade@yahoo.com)
Chinwendu Ukaigwe (raldace@yahoo.com)
Olufunmilayo Olopade (folopade@medicinebsd.uchicago.edu)

Version: 8 Date: 7 December 2012

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

The authors appreciate your review of our article.

Below are the point by point responses to the questions posed by the Reviewers. The responses are in Red fonts and italics for ease of reference. In addition, extensive editing has also been carried out.

Thank you.

Responses to Reviewer's report

Reviewer: Rachael, Adeyanju Akinola
Title: Level of awareness of Mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in Nigeria.
Version: 7 Date: 26 October 2012
Reviewer's report:
1. The question posed by the authors are well defined
2. The methods are well defined and appropriate
3. Data are sound
4. The manuscript adheres to relevant standards for reporting and data deposition
5. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and well supported by the data
6. They are building on previous works done and this was clearly stated
7. The title and abstract clearly tell what was found in this study
8. This manuscript is acceptable upon carrying out the under listed Minor Essential Corrections;
   a. Make all corrections as stated in the body of the manuscript
   c. Explain all yellow highlited parts in simple terms. What does ‘mammographic transparent’ mean?
   Statement rephrased thus “Record show that the women most likely to benefit from mammography are those aged 50 to 69 years because of high prevalence of low breast density”
   d. State the pages in references 14, 17
   Previous Reference 14 has no pages as online version was used. It has however been adjusted
   Previous Reference 17 corrected
   e. Are there any limitations to this study? State them
   Limitations now added
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'
Reviewer: Temitope Bello
Title: Level of awareness of Mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in Nigeria.
Version: 7 Date: 31 October 2012
Reviewer's report:

Abstract
Results: line 1 and 2 rephrased to ‘the proportion of women who ever heard of mammography was 5% and they demonstrate poor knowledge of the procedure. The statement has been rephrased
Line 2,3 4 should read ‘those with primary or secondary levels of education were about 3 times less likely to be aware of mammography when compared with those with tertiary education’ I think the odds ratio, or percentage of participants awareness should be stated.
The sentence has been rephrased and the odds ratio has been included.

Introduction
Paragraph 1 line 6 ‘mammography is not a new screening method in Nigeria, although I agree it is not readily available for wider coverage’
Statement rephrased as “Although not a new screening method, it is yet to be widely available especially in the low-resource countries including Nigeria”.
Paragraph 2, line 3 ‘to reduce mortality by about 63% of women who had screening mammography’
Sentence is rephrased
Paragraph 3, there is quite a number of local articles on the knowledge, awareness and attitude of women to breast cancer, including women populations in the community, which are not hospital based. I think the authors should review more local literature and rephrase the statement.

Paragraph 3 has been modified
Materials and Methods,
Paragraph 1, line 9 the formula for selecting 818 patients should be clearly stated, or rephrase the statement for better clarity.
Current reporting of sample size determination does not explicitly state sample size formulae however we have rephrased the statement for clarity as suggested

Data collection and ethical approval
Line 6 delete face validated or restate as face validity of your instrument as either high or low
Face validated has been expunged
Data management; delete from ‘the enter option of the spss
-----------------------------in a single step’
Sentence has been deleted

Results
Paragraph 2 line 6, what is the difference between those who gave the wrong answer on how often a mammogram should be done, ant those who are totally ignorant of the number of times, in my opinion both groups demonstrate poor knowledge.
We agree with the observation and have made the necessary amends
Paragraph 6 line 12, the term significant association between breast ultrasonography and mammography is vague, what exactly do you mean, is it that a high awareness of one ultimately results in a high percentage in the other. The sentence has been modified to show the direction of the relationship
Discussion
Paragraph 2, line 6; 11% among women with tertiary education
Done
Paragraph 2.; last statement should be deleted, if the details were not provided by the author, it is not right to assume selection of their patients may be from special clinics.
Last statement deleted, previous statement ended with whose study also constituted a high percentage of skilled workers
Paragraph 5, line 1 rephrase first statement, the sentence on logistic regression is misleading, if there is an association among variables, logistic regression is not designed to reduce such association.
The sentence means that after adjusting for other variables which could confound the association between awareness of mammography and education, education remained significant indicating that education is independently associated with awareness based on our data
References
Are adequate
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare i have no competing interests
Reviewer: Maria Trigoni
Title: Level of awareness of Mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in Nigeria.
Version: 7 Date: 2 November 2012
Reviewer's report:
Major compulsory Revisions
1. The study focuses on an important topic: Level of awareness of mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in Nigeria.
   In the introduction section it is not clear whether predisposing vs. enabling factors, would differentially influence mammography screening for women in rural vs. urban areas.
   *The objective of the study does not include comparison between rural and urban areas.*
2. The framework does not appear to be adequately well described. Also, the extent to which the conceptual framework encompasses different types of health systems is unclear.
   At the results and discussion section do not seem to be classified too.
   *This comment is vague and difficult to respond to.*

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
# declare that I have no competing interests
Reviewer: Adenike Akhigbe
Title: Level of awareness of mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in Nigeria.
Version: 7 Date: 2 November 2012
Reviewer's report:
Level of awareness of mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in Nigeria.
The paper described a cross sectional study on level of awareness of mammography among 818 women attending the general outpatient clinics of the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Nigeria. It also determined factors influencing the level of awareness.
MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS
1. The title of this study needs to be modified, since this is not a multi-center study.
   Ibadan is a very large city in Nigeria and UCH is a big teaching hospital, but it is a single center in the southwestern part of the country and there are many other teaching and specialist hospitals within the same zone.
   The title has been modified thus: Level of awareness of mammography among women attending outpatient clinics in a Teaching Hospital in Ibadan, South-west, Nigeria
2. Under abstracts: Methods was reported under background. There is need for methods as sub-heading.
   This has been corrected
   The conclusion drawn about women attending outpatient clinics in Nigeria has to be modified to reflect location of this study and in line with the change in the title.
   This has been modified
   The last sentence under conclusion; should be modified as…. …clinicians performing breast examination should utilize the opportunity to inform the women about (delete ‘the’) mammography screening (not procedure, since most clinicians do not know the procedure).
   Done
3. Under introduction: The 3rd sentence which reads; Mortality from breast cancer is preventable if the disease can be diagnosed early. This is a statement of fact and should be referenced.
   Reference added
   5th sentence ; Mammography cannot be described as a new screening method, when the first mammogram was obtained in 1930 and mammography screening started in the early 1970s in USA (ref: Linda J. Warren Burhenne; Proficiency in mammography: interpretive skills, computer-aided detection, and double reading. Breast Imaging: RSNA Categorical Course in Diagnostic Radiology 2005; pp 93-106). This statement also contradicts the first sentence in paragraph 2 under introduction.
   Statement rephrased
   The sentence about challenges concerning its use in paragraph 2; Are there other side effects other than fear about radiation exposure? The sentence should be modified.
   The sentence has been modified
The 3rd paragraph under introduction about ‘little is known about awareness or utilization in the developing world and …. About the only Nigerian article in the literature which studied mammography’. The information in that paragraph is misleading. Ref nos 3, 5, 15, 17 and 18, apart from 8, which was referred to, are studies among different groups in Nigeria. Some of these studies even reported on the percentage utilization of mammography in the study population. The paragraph has to be modified or expunged.

The paragraph has been expunged

4. UNDER DISCUSSION: 1ST paragraph; the sentence about one of the few studies should be modified, because there are many studies in Nigeria already.

The sentence has been modified

2nd paragraph under discussion; Though our study found a prevalence of about 11% among tertiary education… this sentence is meaningless. Prevalence of what? Among tertiary education?

The sentence has been modified

3rd paragraph. Who documented low level of patient education by health staff in Nigeria? This sentence should be referenced. The examples and references after the sentence are concerning clinical breast examination and referral for mammography and not related to patient’s education by health staff.

The sentence has been modified

4th paragraph; 1st sentence to be modified as; This study found that none of the women had ever had a mammogram. Next sentence to be modified.. ..reported they had mammogram and the 3.1% is from a different study, which should be referenced.

The sentence has been modified

5th paragraph; the 6th sentence.. Records show that women most likely to benefit……should be modified.. which record?...and it should be referenced.

The sentence has been modified

Most of the information under the 5th paragraph is discussion of your results and no comparison with similar studies in Nigeria or any other part of the world. The last sentence under discussion is not scientific; To talk about fear of being diagnosed is not by argument. You need to refer to studies on effects of fatalism and fear on breast cancer screening utilization.

The sentence has been modified

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1. 4TH Paragraph under introduction; 1st sentence…… influencing the level of knowledge (‘of ’ To be deleted) and utilization of screening services. Next sentence… should be modified as; those in the high socioeconomic class.

The sentence has been modified

2. Breast self examination (BSE) is a standard nomenclature and the use should be consistent in the manuscript ,not ‘Self Breast Examination’ as observed in several sections.

Corrected

3. Mammography awareness and utilization is low in Nigeria and many studies have reported this as part of breast cancer awareness studies, any contrary statement which gives the impression that there are no other studies apart from
the study by Akinola et al, will be misleading.

*The sentence has been modified*

4. The details about how the systematic random sampling method was done are not necessary. They should be deleted.

*The details have been deleted*

5. Editing of questionnaires and safely keeping in lockers are not standard methods of ensuring confidentiality. This should be modified; not using names or removing all identifiers is more appropriate.

*Statement has been modified*

6. Details about ‘enter’ option on the SPSS are not necessary, but P-value should be stated.

*P value retained*

7. Under results; 2nd sentence; majority (84%) of were…. Incomplete sentence. Next sentence; mean age of the women to be written as 40.2 ±14.6 with only the range in bracket.

*The sentence is now rewritten as ‘There were 818 women studied and majority (84%) was of the Yoruba tribe."

We prefer the SD to be included as it has been written. Often times writing the measure of variability as +/- a number can be misleading as it could refer to the standard deviation or standard error. Hence we have decided to leave the mean and SD as before but removed the range from the bracket.

8. 2nd paragraph under results; The nine women with any knowledge were all aged less than 40 years and of tertiary education… knowledge of what? Sentence should be modified.

*Knowledge there refers to knowledge about mammography. This has been modified.*

Sixteen women (38%) indicated willingness to have a breast screening by mammography, should be modified to read… to have screening mammography. How did 16 women translate to 38%? Check the statistics.

*16 out of the 42 women aware of mammography translate to 38%, statistics alright.*

Modify ‘None of the women had ever had a mammogram’.

*Statement modified*

3rd paragraph under results; …..and strikingly lower proportions for those with five or more children compared to younger women compared with women with lesser children (p<0.001)… to be modified or corrected.

*Statement modified*

4th paragraph under results; the sentence which reads in part.. The pattern shows the highest proportion aware among those who obtained information from…. the sentence is meaningless and should be modified.

*Sentence has been modified*

6th paragraph under results; the second sentence with p= 0.004 is not in table 3.

*The sentence about association between level of awareness and knowledge that cancer can be cured was an error and has now been removed*
Examination of the breast by Doctor or Nurse is still clinical breast examination; the sentence addressing that in paragraph 6, should be modified.
Second to the last sentence under results, Women with previous breast examination by Doctor or Nurse……. The sentence should be modified.
*The sentence about examination of the breast by the doctor or nurse has been modified*
*Second to the last sentence in the results has been corrected*

9. TABLES: All the tables appear relevant but need the following modifications;
The column for total should come before the Aware of mammography on tables 1 to 3 for more logical sequence and ease of reference, since the percentages in bracket are based on the corresponding total figures.
*The format where the frequencies with the outcome and their corresponding percentages come before the sample size in each category is popular with many journal publications and also with most tables presented even in the BMC hence the authors have decided to leave the tables in the present format.*
Table 3; the legend should be modified.
*The legend has been modified*
The variable about physical examination last 12 months needs to be modified… what is the difference between; No, not connected to health problem and not had an examination?
*This has been modified*

10. No limitations were stated in this study. There are always limitations in every study. eg type of questionnaire used or general literacy level of the predominant catchment area served by UCH could have affected your findings.
*The suggestion is taken and the limitations have been added*

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

*Article has been extensively edited*

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.