Reviewer’s report

Title: Benign proliferative breast diseases among female patients at a sub-Saharan Africa tertiary hospital: A cross sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 21 January 2013

Reviewer: Michele L Cote

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The manuscript by Okot et al. seeks to describe the population of female patients at a Ugandan tertiary hospital with palpable breast lumps and the results of subsequent benign biopsies. The occurrence of benign breast disease (BBD) in this population has not been well described and is an interesting question. There are several additions and clarifications that should be made to the manuscript prior to publication, which should also include another editing for English language journal standards.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The authors need to include a section on data collection and statistical methods. For example, how was parity (low/high) categorized? Was contraceptive use current or past? Define chronic drug use. Were these variables collected during an interview, or from medical records?
2. How were the p-values calculated? For cells with very small (or zero) numbers, it may not be a valid test.
3. Tables 1 and 2 should be referenced in the results section.
4. Missing data should be described in Table 1—BMI appears to be missing for the majority of women. In addition, there are missing values in the chronic drug use rows in Table 1.
5. The second to last sentence on page 4 should be referenced.

Discretionary Revisions
6. Cumulative frequency in Table 2 is not especially helpful. It might be of more interest to stratify these data by menopausal status or parity.

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

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

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.