Reviewer's report

Title: Validation of a Susceptibility, Benefits, and Barrier Scale for Mammography Screening among Peruvian Women: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Tytti Sarkeala

Reviewer's report:

The study 'Validation of susceptibility, benefits, and barrier scale for mammography screening among Peruvian women: a cross-sectional study' examines a Champion’s scale measuring perceived susceptibility to breast cancer and perceived benefits and barriers to mammography utilization among women attending outpatient gynaecology clinic in a public hospital in Lima, Peru.

The authors adapted a Spanish version of the Champion’s scale to a local dialect, piloted the new version among 20 women, and thereafter administered the piloted version to 294 women aged 40-65 years to assess construct validity and reliability of the scale. The authors also evaluated concurrent validity of the scale by comparing various scores of the Champion’s scale between those who had received and those who had not received a mammogram within the last 15 months.

The results revealed high construct validity and reliability. Since perceived barriers was the only sub-score associated to mammography screening, the authors concluded that the Champion’s scale showed limitations in concurrent validity and therefore should not as such to be used to explore perceived beliefs about breast cancer and mammography screening in Peru.

Major comments:

1. More information on the Champion’s scale, e.g. on the scale items and the previous study populations should be given. Is the Champion’s scale currently utilized somewhere?

2. Accordingly, more information on mammography screening utilization in Peru should be given, e.g. do the women need to seek mammograms by themselves, or is mammography screening based on invitation? Is it expensive to have a mammogram in Peru? Is mammography screening generally available, and is it available simultaneously with cervical cancer screening?

3. The study group consisted of women attending a gynaecology clinic in the capital city of Peru. Did the women come to the clinic due to cervical cancer screening, due to mammography screening, or due to both of these (see above)? In any case, the study group has already ‘bypassed the accessibility barrier’, and therefore does not necessarily form a representative sample of Peruvian women aged 40-65 years. This should be discussed in the manuscript.
4. In the Champion paper (1999), the study group consisted of women aged 50+ (mean age 61) with a fairly high mean educational level (12.5 years). Those not being able to read or write were excluded. Could the differences between the Champion and the current study group affect e.g. on the level and distribution of perceived susceptibility to breast cancer or perceived benefits of mammography screening?

5. The authors conclude that the Champion’s scale should not be used among Peruvian women until the content of the scale is revised. Considering the low mammography rates in Peru, there could also be other means to be developed, e.g. accessibility to screening and information systems. If there is a lack of information and services, there probably won’t be large differences in perceived beliefs about breast cancer and mammography screening among the screening target population?

Minor comments:

6. Out of the 285 women in the study group, approximately 37% had received a screening mammogram within 15 months, 20% had received at least one mammogram prior to 15 months, and 43% had never received a mammogram. Which groups did the authors compare when assessing the concurrent validity of the scale?

7. How the independent analyses on age, prior Pap test, and knowledge about breast cancer are connected to validation of the Champion’s scale?

**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.