Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of interval between age at first birth and age at diagnosis on breast cancer survival according to menopausal status: A register-based study in Korea

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Reviewer: Ray Lowenthal

Reviewer's report:

This is a nicely presented and well written registry study of the prognostic impact of reproductive factors on breast cancer outcome. The authors are to be congratulated on a major piece of work: they studied nearly 30,000 patients. Although the relationships identified statistically take some concentration to understand (there are both negative and positive effects), the authors have chosen their words carefully to explain their findings. The first sentence in the Conclusion summarises their important findings nicely and clearly.

A statistical review is needed.

Minor points

Methods: please indicate what proportion of Korean breast cancer patients are registered in the Korean Breast Cancer Society Registry.

Results: first sentence would be better expressed thus: “T1, T2 staged breast cancer was more frequent in postmenopausal than in premenopausal breast cancer patients (84.9% versus 82.3%, p<0.001).” And similarly throughout.

Abbreviations should be listed alphabetically.

Authors’ contributions: “Both authors…” rather than “All authors…”

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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 I have no competing interests.