Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of periodic health examination on surgical treatment for uterine fibroids in Beijing: a case-control study

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Reviewer: Andreas Hackethal

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Wu et al. examine the “Impact of periodic health examination on surgical treatment for uterine fibroids in Beijing: a case-control study”.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
Yes, but “Therefore, we conducted a pilot case-control study, choosing uterine fibroids as a ‘model disease’, to assess the impact of PHE at HEC on health care demands and utilization in China.” is not specific, as the study assesses only uterine fibroids. This should be changed.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The method part is rather long and complicated to follow. A diagram or figure or table should summarize information and ease the reader to follow the methods.

3. Are the data sound?
Yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
What do the authors want to show? Is their main object to show, that PHE are resulting in more and expensive surgeries for uterine fibroids, that are not necessary? Interestingly the authors state, that their study was granted by the Chinese society of health. Might there be a conflict of interest?

A major weakness is: The controls did not have a diagnosis of fibroids in 90.2%, which gives rise to the question, therefore they would tend to not associate symptoms to this disease, which they don’t know they have.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Not to my understanding. A statistical review should be carried out.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? s.a.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes, the writing is acceptable, even though some sentences should be checked for understanding. This sentence is rather difficult to follow:
“Unlike that practiced in western countries, where PHE are usually performed by primary care physicians, today in China, annual PHE are usually organized by government institutes and public or private enterprises for their employees and performed at HEC, for the purpose of screening of disease risk factors and sub-clinical illness, and HEC, whether those hospital-based or those privately-owned, stand-alone HEC, provide PHE almost always as a for-profit service.”

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

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

**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